

Hafa Adai!

PSS, private, govt sector begin 4-day Strategic Planning Institute. **PAGE 3**

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\$1

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Frahm poses a flight risk, ordered detained

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has ruled in favor of the U.S. government to detain David Matthew Frahm pending trial after evidence established that he's a flight risk.



Frahm

Last week, the U.S. government made a motion to detain Frahm pending trial.

Yesterday, the parties in the Frahm case went before U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona for a detention hearing.

During the hearing, the U.S. government, represented by assistant U.S. attorney Eric

See FRAHM on Page 4

Pacific Rim faces lawsuit for allegedly laying off over 180 construction workers

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A group of former Pacific Rim Land Development LLC employees have filed a lawsuit against their employer alleging violation of the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification

(WARN) Act for allegedly laying off over 180 employees without adequate notice.

Plaintiffs Martin Dela Cruz Jr., Martin Dela Cruz, and Christopher LeeDelrio, on behalf of themselves and all other persons similarly situated, have filed a complaint against Pacific Rim alleging

violation of the WARN Act a law that protects workers from mass layoffs without adequate notice.

The workers are filing their complaint with the U.S. District Court for the NMI alleging Pacific Rim of implementing a mass

See PACIFIC on Page 4

IPI creditors file opposition to IPI's \$6.6M DIP financing

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

A number of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC creditors have banded together in opposition of the casino investor's request for debtor-in-possession financing for the remaining \$6.6 million of the \$7 million loan IPI says it has secured.

The official committee of general IPI unsecured creditors, through attorneys Aram Ordubegian and Christopher K.S. Wong, have filed a supplemental opposition to the final approval of the motion for

See IPI on Page 4



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's unfinished casino resort in the heart of Garapan is photographed at sunset.

\$10K bail set for man accused in Garapan burglary



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Steven Roman Mendiola Tudela is escorted to his bail hearing yesterday at the Superior Court in Susupe.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Superior Court imposed a \$10,000 cash bail on a man accused of breaking in and burglarizing a room at the Beach Garden Estate Hotel and Apartment in Garapan last Thursday, June 13, 2024.

The bail amount and preliminary hearing dates were set for Steven Roman Men-

diola Tudela, the accused, during a bail hearing yesterday at the Guma Haustisa in Susupe under Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho.

The 29-year-old Tudela is facing charges of burglary and theft and during the hearing, assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas said Tudela already had a past record of several forgery and

theft cases and had only been out on probation.

After the hearing, Tudela was remanded back to the Department of Corrections' custody and ordered to appear for his preliminary hearing on June 26, 2024 at 10am. His arraignment hearing is set for July 1, 2024. The Public Defender's Office appointed assistant public

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INSIDE



LOCAL

Adm. Samuel J. Paparo, commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, presided over the establishment ceremony of Joint Task Force-Micronesia at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam on June 14, 2024, where Rear Adm. Gregory C. Huffman assumed command.

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BUSINESS

Bank of Guam, in partnership with Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, announced that WestCare Pacific Islands will receive a \$200,000 grant from the FHLB Des Moines Member Impact Fund.

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LIFE & STYLE

"The Outsiders," a gritty adaptation of the classic young adult novel, became the essence of a Broadway insider on Sunday, winning the Tony Award for best new musical on a night when women made strides.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

PSS, private, govt sector begin 4-day Strategic Planning Institute

Key government and private sector leaders, policymakers, decision-makers and students joined yesterday the Public School System for the first-ever Strategic Planning Institute.

The institute is a four-day event that aims to “look at the core” need for the Public School System with both the government and the private sector—as “one stakeholder”—supporting high school graduates’ choice: pursue college education or career.

These industry leaders all agree that the largest source of the local workforce are graduates of PSS.

Close to about 200 participants attended yesterday’s first day. They include school administrators, educators, parent leaders, and youth leaders.

Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho initiated the strategic planning institute.

Dr. Allison Leyland, chief education strategist of the Academic Development Institute and of the U.S. Department of Education’s Region 18 Comprehensive Center Network, was the overall facilitator of the four-day event.

Camacho and Special Education State director Donna M. Flores were facilitators for both the morning and afternoon panel discussions.

“The (Strategic Planning Institute) is here to help us establish and realign our goals and direction, an opportunity for us to look beyond who we are today as one community,” Camacho said.

At the outset, government and private sector leaders have already agreed “to strengthen collaboration by aligning its needs and direction” to that of the school district.

“We are glad that all of our partners are here to help us ‘re-imagine and re-structure PSS’ focus to reflect and align all the government and private sector’s needs and programs geared towards education and workforce development,” Camacho added.

“With the current structure that we have in the CNMI, we need alignment,” Career and Technical Education Program director Dr. Jessica Taylor said. We have opportunities for everyone.”

“We are here to put together into one focus the priorities that are being shared with us by each government department and the private sector; how we can incorporate that into our long-term plan. In that we hope to achieve this through Commissioner Dr. Camacho’s initiative of bring-



PSS
Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, standing second left, was the lead convenor of the first-ever Strategic Planning Institute of the Public School System, which began yesterday.

ing all our stakeholders together,” said co-facilitator and SPeD State director Flores.

Data

The panelists in the morning session were Saipan Chamber director Alex Sablan, House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Department of Labor Employment Services director Eugene Tebuteb, Department of Labor Workforce Investment Agency director Frances Torres, Youth Congress speaker Vinnie Juan Sablan, and Cathy A. Toves, representing Tan Holdings Corp.

In the afternoon, the panelists were University of Guam’s senior vice president and provost Dr. Sharleen Santos-Bamba, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther L. Muna, Northern Marianas Technical Institute CEO Jodina Attao, Northern Marianas College executive director to the president Kevin Bautista, Youth Congress senator Ayden Yumul, State Parent Advisory Council vice president Rodney Cabarles, Leyland, and the Chamber’s Sablan.

Villagomez acknowledged that the data that PSS has will guide the lawmakers in providing PSS with its funding needs.

“It’s good that there’s a program in PSS that talks about collective data and that their decisions are guided by data and not by anything else. That helps us at the legislature make a good decision. I congratulate PSS for that,” the House speaker said, adding that DOL’s employment services director Tebuteb said: “We work with data every day. We see a trend in the workforce. We understand that in the last 20 years there are particular industries that are the most in demand: construc-

tion, installation and repair, food preparation, etc... and with the data of PSS, what I would like to see is a better collaboration with the department of labor.”

“We need to champion workforce development,” he added.

With the CW1 transitional visa for foreign workers in the CNMI ending by 2029, Tebuteb said all stakeholders should strengthen its partnership.

“We are not sure if this (CW1 program) will continue. If our business community demand skills that require their operation, then we have to prepare our children for that. And I totally concur for our

students to be college and career ready”

DOL’s Workforce Investment director Torres agrees.

“One takeaway for us here is alignment—aligning our system to effectuate systems that we need to implement, so we can move forward despite the many challenges we see in our community and our economy. There will always be opportunity for all of us,” Torres said.

Praised

Youth Congress speaker Sablan praised PSS for the “opportunities afforded to all students in both public and private schools.”

At the same time, the

Chamber’s Sablan said with opportunities, there is urgency to continue “to focus on the workforce needs” of the CNMI.

“PSS and NMC have a phenomenal job of transitioning our students to college and career readiness. (And) parents have to be involved more, but they need to be retooled. We have to collectively find a way to make it happen,” Sablan said.

“We also have to look at academies that will help students who need help; look at homes who need help. We are going to be challenged over the course of the next decade, including with artificial intelligence and its possibility of replacing jobs. It will be a challenge.”

But right now, Sablan, what is urgent is the “challenge of resources.” The rest “will come sooner rather than later.”

“From transportation to all aspects of retail, the service industry and all other jobs that are not felt right now but will be felt sooner. It will eventually.” (PR)

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 8th, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

RFP24-CHCC/FINANCE-015

"SINGLE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEARS ENDING 2022, 2023 & 2024"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/s/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Name: Lani A. Barcinas
Address: P.O. Box 503 Tinian, MP 96952
Phone: 670-433-7676

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of the Petition for the Appointment of General Guardianship for:] FCD-GU CIVIL] ACTION NO. 24-0164

Randall Jake A. Barcinas] **NOTICE OF HEARING**
Minor Child(ren)]

By:]
Lani A. Barcinas]
Petitioner(s)]

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 19, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. at the Tinian Courthouse, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 12th day of June, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Jan Christin S. Cabrera
By: Deputy Clerk

Name of Petitioner: EMANUEL COLIN D. ALUBIA
Mailing Address: P.O. BOX 1359 ROTA, MP 96951
Telephone No.: 670-433-7676
Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Adoption of:] FCD-AD CIVIL] ACTION NO. 24-0215-FCD

(Child's New Name - INITIALS ONLY)] **NOTICE OF HEARING**
B. C. A.]
Minor Child]

By:]
EMANUEL COLIN]
D. ALUBIA]
Petitioner]

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on August 2, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in Courtroom Rota, before Associate Judge Lillian A. Tenorio.

Dated this 28th day of May, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

CEDA

COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CEDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024 AT 3:00 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CEDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CEDA BUILDING, OLEAI SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
- II. Public Comments
- III. Funds Available for Economic Development-Type Projects – Board Action
- IV. Marianas Visitors Authority's (MVA) Request for Technical Assistance for Exit Surveys – Board Action
- V. Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) Request for Funding Assistance for Ports Improvement Projects – Board Action
- VI. Executive Session
- VII. Adjournment

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
FRANCISCO M. RABAULIMAN
Chairman, Board of Directors

Jang's nomination moves to full SNILD body for confirmation

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**

kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation on Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee members voted in favor of the nomination of Steve Jang to serve on the Commonwealth Zoning Board.

Last Friday, Plumeria Steak House and Ete Cafe owner Steve K. Jang appeared before the SNILD JGO committee where his nomination to the Zoning Board was discussed.

After hearing from Jang, members of the committee voted in favor of recommending that Jang's nomination be confirmed to the



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

CNMI businessman Steve Jang appeared before the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation on Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee last Friday to discuss his nomination to the Commonwealth Zoning Board.

full SNILD body.

If confirmed, Jang will represent Saipan on the

Zoning Board.

"I'm both honored and humbled to have this opportunity

to appear before this body. I'm exceedingly grateful and elated with the opportunity to give back to the community. I have owned and operated small businesses for 30 years here in the CNMI. Due to my business, I have interacted with the CNMI Zoning office many times. Through these experiences, I became familiar with the Zoning process and the Zoning Board. I can say with confidence that Zoning is an integral part of the Commonwealth's economic infrastructure," he said.

Jang said should he be confirmed, he pledges to do his best ensure that Zoning provides efficient and streamlined services to help

business owners function in the CNMI economy.

"Every business on Saipan must go through the Zoning office to obtain zoning permit to get a business license. The Zoning process implicates numerous issues that impact businesses such as land use, conditional use, landscaping, parking, signage, urban planning, among other things.

This is why it is vitally important that the Zoning Board is comprised of people who understand the ins and out of the Zoning office. Over the years, I have had many interactions with Zoning. It is very important as this office is a major function of the CNMI. I believe it is a requisite to be an effective member of the Zoning Board," he said.

\$10K

From page 1

defender Emily Thomsen as defense attorney.

According to court documents, the recent theft incident was reported on June 13, at 1:46pm. The Department of Public Safety was notified of a break-in at the Beach Garden Hotel and Apartment and upon reaching the site learned that a male individual had broken into one of the apartments, an eyewitness noting that the individual had jumped over a fence to one of the other rooms.

After endeavoring to check if the room occupants were inside, the police completed the safety check and were able to

get into the apartment where they found Tudela hiding inside the apartment bathroom. The male individual was later identified as Tudela and the eyewitness also confirmed that Tudela was the man who jumped the fence.

According to the report, Tudela admitted to taking an MK brand bag from the first room and hiding it in the second. He also left behind a white and black \$15.99 bag outside the first room window which contained a \$5,000 LG laptop and charger, a \$2,000 Apple iPad, a portable blood pressure machine, a Ziploc bag of foreign coins, and yellow and red short pants.

Tudela was then brought to DOC for detention.

PACIFIC

From page 1

layoff that affected them and over 100 others similarly situated employees without giving adequate notice.

The plaintiffs are demanding a jury trial on this matter.

As relief, the plaintiffs are asking the court to grant them a judgment against Pacific Rim equal to the sum of their unpaid wages, salary, and benefits for 60 days.

In addition, the plaintiffs want the court to certify the action as class action, designate plaintiffs as class representatives, appoint an attorney as a class counsel, and payments for attorneys' fees and the costs and disbursements that the plaintiffs incurred in

prosecuting this action.

According to the complaint, in 2014, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC entered into a Casino License Agreement with the CNMI Casino Commission for the issuance of an exclusive casino license.

The Casino License Agreement required IPI to meet certain development requirements.

As part of the development requirements, IPI planned to construct a casino-hotel including a resort hotel, multiple hotel tower levels, a forecourt area, a casino podium, a beach club, and landscaped areas at a site in Garapan.

Around the beginning of 2018, Pacific Rim entered a construction contract with IPI to perform construction work for IPI for the casino-hotel at the IPI site.

The construction contract provided that Pacific Rim would develop a construction plan with the goal of completing construction by May 31, 2019.

Upon information and belief, Pacific Rim did develop a construction plan with a target completion date in May 2019.

To carry out the construction contract, Pacific Rim recruited people from Saipan, Guam, and other places to fill positions such as general laborers, carpenters, riggers, equipment operators, welders, electricians, painters, pipelayers, and engineers for the IPI project.

At all times relevant, there were 100 or more of those employees and they all worked every week in excess of 40 hours.

Upon information and belief, IPI was allegedly delinquent in

paying Pacific Rim under the construction contract.

The complaint said to force IPI to pay, Pacific Rim's management threatened to suspend work at the IPI site unless IPI cured the nonpayment.

Upon information and belief, IPI promised to pay Pacific Rim but did not meet its payment obligations to Pacific Rim for June 2018 or subsequent months.

On or about July 25, 2018, Pacific Rim's management informed all of its construction-related employees working at the IPI site that they should stop working until further notice from Pacific Rim's management.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

IPI

From page 1

order authorizing DIP financing for the remaining \$6.6 million of the \$7-million loan IPI has allegedly secured.

Essentially, IPI managed to secure a \$7-million loan from a Hong Kong-based financing institution. However, DIP financing through the court is needed to ensure that should IPI fail in its attempt to restructure and must liquidate all assets to pay off creditors, the lender and its loan is given priority.

According to the motion, during the May 30 hearing, the court granted IPI's motion on an interim basis, authorizing IPI to obtain an initial advance of \$400,000 of the \$7 million from Mr. Loi Lam Sit.

In doing so, the court emphasized the need for IPI to supplement its motion to address a number of concerns which were, and continue to be, shared by the committee, the CNMI government, and other parties before final approval of the loan can be prop-

erly evaluated.

The committee states that at the top of the list of concerns is the lack of evidence justifying the need for the remaining \$6.6 million for the debtor's reorganization, and the concealed nature of the lender's identity and connection to this case.

"It must be reiterated the debtor has the burden of proof, by a preponderance of the evidence, to demonstrate that an additional \$6.6 million in financing from this obscure source is 'actual' and 'necessary' to the bankruptcy estate. Yet, with creditors eagerly waiting, the debtor only submitted a one-and-a-half page, woefully deficient declaration from the Lender that neglects to address crucial concerns regarding the lender's background, his relationship with the debtor and its insiders, and his motives for providing the DIP loan. Instead of clarifying these issues, it raises further questions," said the motion.

The committee says that IPI has provided limited and vague information about the lender, mentioning his status as a businessman in Hong

Kong and his lack of familial ties to Ji Xiaobo and Cui Lijie.

"However, it fails to include his contact information, disclose any prior relationship with Mr. Ji or Ms. Cui, or explain why Mr. Ji approached him specifically for the loan. This scant detail does not provide the court and interested parties with sufficient basis to determine that the Lender is acting in good faith. Further, a revised loan agreement addressing the court's concerns is nowhere to be found. It has become evident that the debtor has not been forthcoming with the court, consistently providing only minimal information regarding the proposed Lender's background and the source of the DIP funds," said the motion.

The committee argues that the lender's refusal or inability to explain his motive for extending \$7 million to IPI makes him unsuitable as a DIP lender in this proceeding.

"Therefore, the debtor must seek alternative funding sources, as mandated by Section 364 of the Bankruptcy Code. In granting interim

relief for the initial advance of \$400,000, the court recognized that certain basic stabilizing expenses had to be paid, including utilities, insurance, and rent. However, the debtor has not provided justification for how the additional \$6.6 million loan will fund a plan of reorganization," said the motion.

The creditors noted that according to IPI, \$6.15 million of the remaining \$6.6 million is to pay the Commonwealth Casino Commission and the CNMI Treasury.

"This figure is based entirely on the false assumption that the CCC and the CNMI Treasury have or will agree to such a settlement amount. However, the CCC has unequivocally stated that no settlement is being negotiated, let alone agreed upon. Consequently, approving the DIP loan on a final basis is premature, unwarranted, and counter to the interest of the estate and creditors," said the motion.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

FRAHM

From page 1

O'Malley, presented testimony from FBI Special Agent Richard Bauer and made arguments in favor of Frahm's detention.

For the defense's side, attorney Richard Miller made arguments to the court in support of Frahm's release.

After hearing from the parties, the court granted the government's motion for detention and ordered defendant detained pending trial.

"The government established, by a preponderance of the evidence, that defendant is a flight risk," the court found.

However, the court also found that the government failed to satisfy the "clear and convincing" standard that the defendant is a danger to the community or any other person.

Also, during the hearing, Miller made an oral motion to extend the pretrial motions deadline to June 28.

Without objection from the U.S. government, the court granted the oral motion and ordered that pretrial motions for both parties are now due June 28.

Frahm was remanded back to U.S. Marshals' custody following the hearing and he will remain detained until his trial set for August.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Frahm, a former local high school band teacher, is facing child pornography charges in federal court.

After he arrived on Saipan

last week following a successful extradition from Malaysia, Frahm was brought before U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Manglona for an initial appearance and arraignment in a case involving child pornography.

Specifically, in this case, Frahm faces charges of attempted exploitation of a child, possession of child pornography, and engaging in illicit sexual conduct in foreign places.

He pleaded not guilty to the charges filed against him.

After pleading not guilty, Manglona set the matter for a jury trial on Aug. 13 at 10am.

Meanwhile, Miller said he intends to file a motion to dismiss the engaging in illicit sexual conduct in foreign places charge against Frahm based on lack of venue.

"Even if the court has jurisdiction over the defendant for count three, there's still the question 'why Saipan?' when the conduct took place in Malaysia. On the face of the indictment, it's not clear. Sometimes venue is obvious on the face of the indictment, and that's enough. But here, it's just not obvious in count three so I expect we will file a motion on that," he said.

Frahm pleaded guilty before a court in Malaysia last month to possessing child pornography.

In addition, Frahm pleaded not guilty to the sexual harassment charges filed against him after allegedly producing sexual material when he allegedly filmed a minor showering in her home.

Operation Irensia: A new chapter in Pacific maritime cooperation

SANTA RITA, Guam—In a display of regional unity and maritime prowess, U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia and Base Guam hosted the inaugural Operation Irensia from June 3-9, 2024, at Apra Harbor, Guam.

This landmark event, the successful inaugural Operation Irensia, was a testament to the unity and cooperation among Pacific Island nations and allied forces. It also coincided with World Oceans Week. The culmination of two years of meticulous planning and coordination, the operation brought together the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Australia in a shared commitment to preserving the security and prosperity of the Pacific region.

Operation Irensia, meaning 'heritage' in Chamorro, symbolizes a shared commitment to preserving the security and prosperity of the Pacific region through enhanced interoperability and cooperative engagement. The operation featured participants from the Republic of Palau with their Guardian-class Patrol Boat (GPB) PSS *President HI Remeliik II* (001) and the Federated States of Micronesia with their GPB FSS *Bethwel Henry* (P902) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands with their Pacific-class RMIS *Lomor* (03), alongside the USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) and USCGC *Frederick Hatch* (WPC 1143), and members of Forces Micronesia and Base Guam.

"Operation Irensia showcases our collective capabilities and strengthens the bonds between our nations. This initiative, two years in the making, is a testament to our enduring commitment to the Pacific region. We are grateful to all our partners and eager for this to become an annual event, continuing to foster a legacy of collaboration and security," said Capt. Robert Kistner, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia, expressing his enthusiasm for the success of the operation and its future potential.

The operation featured a



In a gathering of maritime allies, the Guardian-class patrol ships PSS *President HI Remeliik II* (001) from the Republic of Palau and FSS *Bethwel Henry* (P902) from the Federated States of Micronesia and alongside the Forum-class RMIS *Lomor* (03) from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the crew of the USCGC *Frederick Hatch* (WPC 1143) and a Station Apra Harbor 29-foot Response Boat-Small conduct a formation sail off of Guam, June 7, 2024.

robust week of activities, including an opening ceremony, a law enforcement and mock boarding subject matter exchange, a series of competitive seamanship and damage control events, various social gatherings such as a beach BBQ and basketball tournament, and multiple underway days for practical at-sea exercises. These activities enhance interoperability and strengthen partnerships among the participating Pacific maritime forces.

The operation would not have been possible without the strong support of the Royal Australian Navy and the Australian Pacific Maritime Security Program, which played a pivotal role in facilitating the participation of various nations, including logistics, and providing mentorship to the crews involved.

"We are thrilled to collaborate with our partner, the U.S. Coast Guard, to bring Operation Irensia to life," said Dr Liz Brierley, assistant secretary of the Pacific Maritime Branch from the Australian Department of Defence. "The operation provides the opportunity to support our Pacific partners in building their capability, increasing interoperability, and strengthening regional maritime security."

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the nations and agencies that have turned Operation Irensia from a concept into a reality," added Captain Kistner. "Their willingness, dedication, and cooperation have set a high standard for future engagements and pave

the way for a secure, unified Pacific. We also extend a deep thank you to the U.S. Navy and Naval Base Guam for assisting us in being gracious hosts through their port operations support."

The success of Operation Irensia underscores its significant role in enhancing regional maritime security. It clearly demonstrates the ongoing commitment of the U.S. and its allies to maintaining peace and stability in the Pacific region.



This assembly marks the inaugural Operation Irensia, a collaborative effort led by the U.S. Coast Guard to enhance Pacific interoperability and coordinated regional efforts. Held from June 3-9, 2024, this operation underscores a shared commitment to building stronger partnerships and promoting security throughout the Pacific.

inant presence in Guam, Saipan, and the Micronesia sub-region, this integrated team focuses on operations and logistics to support maritime safety, security, and stewardship in Oceania and maintains close ties with local communities.

About the Pacific Maritime Security Program

The Pacific Maritime Security Program is a comprehensive package of capability, infrastructure, sustainment, training, and coordination

designed to increase national and regional maritime security for Pacific Island countries. The PMSP represents the Australian Government's commitment to the Pacific and includes key components such as delivering new sovereign Guardian-class Patrol Boats with safe and secure berthing to partner nations, providing lifetime sustainment and training, deploying in-country advisers, providing region-wide integrated aerial surveillance, and enhancing regional coordination. (USCG)



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- US, Green Card, EAD preferred. On-island applicants only, please.

Send resume and on-island references to
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DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID ITB24-BECQ/TIN-42400101

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 03, 2024 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR BECQ TINIAN"

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THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5. SECTION 8652 (A-G)

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD V. SALAS
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID ITB24-DPS-42400114

SUBMISSION DATE: July 18, 2024
TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"Purchase of Two (2) Class "I" Vehicles for the Department of Public Safety, Saipan Highway Patrol"

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QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MS. MARGARITA CAMACHO AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE VIA EMAIL OR TELEPHONE AT mdlcamacho@dps.gov.mp or at (670) 664 - 9122.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Anthony I. Macaranas
COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas, Jr.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



USCG

Participating ships and crew are greeted by the command from U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam and partners from the Royal Australian Navy and Australian Defence Force Pacific Maritime Security Program.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

No honor system: Supreme Court isn't above other branches

Speaking freely at a glitzy Supreme Court Historical Society event earlier this month, Justice Samuel Alito pointed out that there are “fundamental things that really can’t be compromised” in society, and speculated that “one side or the other is going to win.” The comments were recorded by a documentarian who had attended the events and surreptitiously recorded the justices as they increasingly find themselves under the microscope for tossing precedent overboard and embarking on ideologically rigid right-wing path.

At the same event, Chief Justice John Roberts showed how justices are supposed to approach these questions, telling the documentarian that the court should not be a moral compass for the country, nor trying to put us on the path towards being a Christian nation.

Alito is right about one thing — one side or the other indeed will win. He may think of this as a battle between the political right and left, with the latter characterized as an out-of-control force wrecking the country. But that’s not really what’s happening here; it’s a contest between a conception of the court and the broader government as a tool to protect rights and small-l liberal commitments, or one to impose a reactionary agenda against all that.

We cannot have a society that simultaneously respects values like self-determination, protection of civil rights and access to health care and abortion, while being run by minority factions hell-bent on imposing their personal religious values on everyone. The vision of strict and strictly enforced social and economic hierarchy based on some imagined bygone conservative principles is fundamentally incompatible with the principles that this country holds as its high ideals.

The trouble is Alito, who holds an office that is meant to safeguard the latter, is fighting on the opposite side. Yet it’s considered impolite to point this out, despite the fact that the justice has been all but explicit about it, with his public rhetoric and with Jan. 6 and Christian nationalist flags (dubiously blamed entirely on his wife). Now here he is, being even clearer in agreeing that the country must return to some sort of “godliness.”

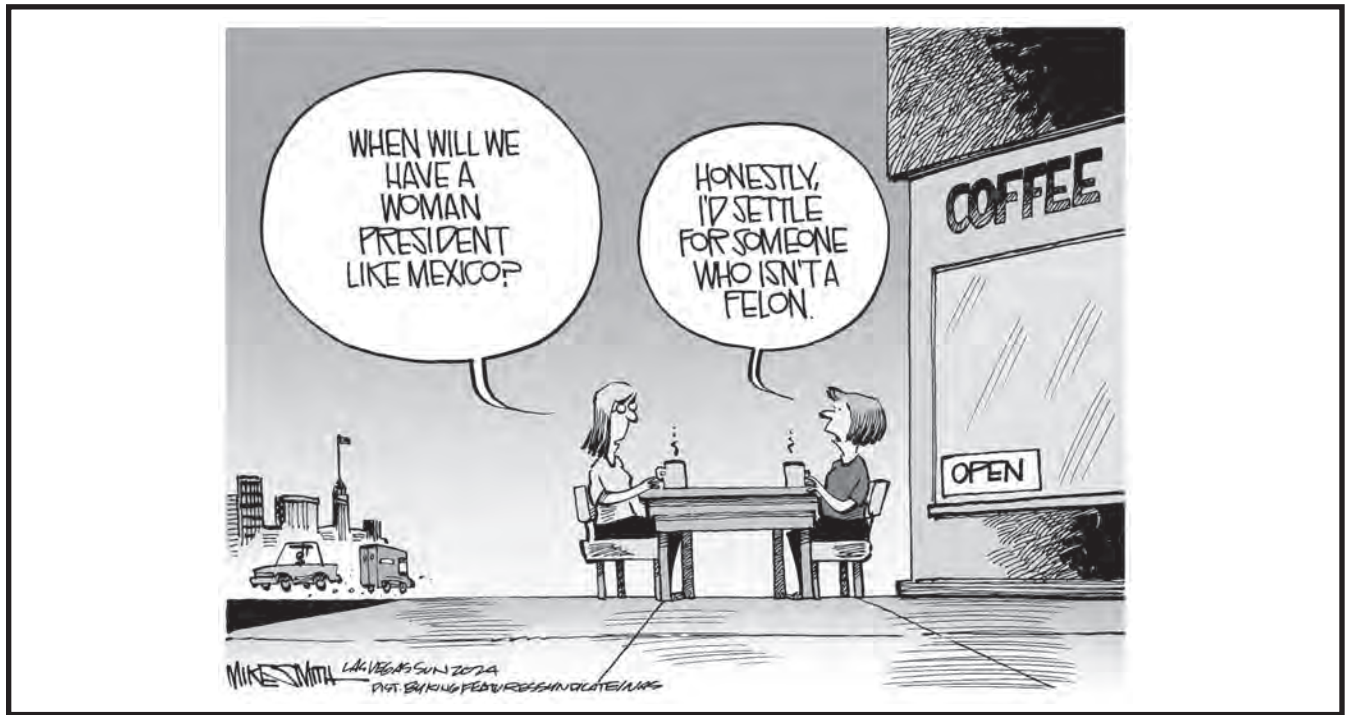
This is just one instance that happened to be recorded, but there’s no doubt Alito and his fellow ultra-conservative justices are toeing this line elsewhere, like the privately-funded retreats put on by right-wing legal groups and the

trips organized by Clarence Thomas’ benefactor Harlan Crow. They’re generally fine being so open about it because experience has shown they will face little accountability or consequences.

That should change. The Constitution created the three branches of government as co-equal, keeping one another in check. It did not put the Supreme Court above everything else, untouchable by either electoral will or scrutiny from other branches.

The Congress should force the justices to clarify some of their conflicts of interest and outside entanglements, under oath. No more polite invitations for justices to decline, no more justices reluctantly making disclosures only after reporters and oversight groups dig up million-dollar gifts they’ve received. Use the levers of government to rein the justices in, while we still have a liberal democracy to defend.

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It's far cheaper to help migrants before they leave home

Gardi Sugdub is a tiny island off Panama’s Caribbean coast that is jammed from end to end with housing for about 1,300 members of the indigenous Guna people. The island is sinking beneath rising waters as the planet warms. So Panama has built an inland housing development for the entire population. They’ll move into their pristine new homes this month.

If only all climate migration could be so simple.

President Joe Biden signed an executive order last week making it harder for people to seek asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border, the latest gambit in a political war over immigration that has divided the country for decades. But as with many effects of a changing climate, we might someday look back on the era that gave us routine election-year migrant-caravan panic and Donald Trump’s big, beautiful wall as “the good old days.”

As temperatures rise around the globe, so will heat waves, droughts, floods, pandemics and other natural disasters along with shortages of food and water and conflicts over resources. By the nightmare logic of climate change, the countries least responsible for pumping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and heating the planet will bear the brunt of these impacts. And such countries also tend to have the least wealth, infrastructure and social fabric to protect their people.

In fact, after just 1.3 degrees Celsius of global warming over preindustrial averages, the countries with the most refugees, asylum seekers and other uprooted people already tend to be among those deepest in the jaws of climate change.

These are mostly clustered in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and South America along an equatorial belt that has experienced more climate-change-induced extreme heat than the rest of the planet in recent decades.

Most migrants likely wouldn’t say they’re fleeing climate change. They’re escaping war, economic uncertainty, social instability and the like. But climate change multiplies those threats. It’s probably not a coincidence that 95% of conflict refugees in 2020 came from global-warming hot spots, according to the UN High Commission for Refugees.

With so many different factors influencing why people move, it can be tough to single out climate. There are some clues, however. A recent review of the scientific literature by researchers at the University of Vermont and the University of Otago in New Zealand found that high temperatures and weather-related disasters consistently trigger migration around the globe. And a 2021 study by researchers at the National Autonomous University of Mexico found the movement of low-income farmers from Mexico to the U.S. not only tripled during times of drought but accounted for possibly a third of all cross-border migration.

Given all the complexities and the lack of data, it’s even harder to model potential future climate migration. Various algorithms have cranked out global numbers anywhere from 50 million to 1.2 billion. There could be 216 million people displaced within national borders by 2050, the World Bank has estimated. And internal migration—say from the country to the city—is usually

By MARK GONGLOFF

Bloomberg Opinion

Mark Gongloff is a Bloomberg Opinion editor and columnist covering climate change. He previously worked for Fortune.com, the Huffington Post and the Wall Street Journal.



the first step in cross-border migration. Up to 6.7 million people could flee Latin America for the U.S. alone because of climate change by 2080, according to a 2010 Princeton study.

But there’s not much use in trying to gauge such distant numbers with precision. It’s more than enough to know they’ll probably be very high—especially considering the extreme backlash even the relatively small amount of cross-border migration in recent decades has already caused.

We talk constantly in the U.S. about the “crisis at the border,” but as my Bloomberg Opinion colleague Justin Fox has noted, illegal southern-border crossings are almost certainly not worse now than they were in, say, the 1980s and ’90s. Encounters between migrants and border officials are at all-time highs, but those officials have become much, much better at capturing illegal immigrants in recent years. The result is a real problem but not necessarily a generational one—yet.

It’s easy to imagine the political response in this country when the number of encounters doubles or triples. But simply adding higher walls and more razor wire can’t be the only answer. For one thing, it’s immoral. The U.S. and other developed countries are responsible for the vast bulk of the greenhouse gases that have warmed the atmosphere and immiserated millions. They bear significant responsibility for cleaning up the mess they have made.

Waiting to fight the migration problem until it shows up at the border is also dangerously impractical. Trapping hundreds of millions of people in unlivable conditions will only build up impossible pressures that result in even more chaos and conflict. It will be far cheaper in dollars and lives to support these people before they leave home, especially by helping their countries mitigate and adapt to climate change. The politics of doing this are difficult now, but they won’t get any easier in the future.

Of course, there’s some \$70 billion per year’s worth of low-hanging fruit here: That’s the annual cost of servicing developing-nation debt, which can be canceled or worked off in debt-for-nature swaps to alleviate the burden on vulnerable countries. Developed nations should also keep living up to their long-delayed promise to spend \$100 billion a year on climate aid—without resorting to tricks such as providing most “aid” in the form of more debt or requiring the proceeds to be funneled back to donor countries.

See MIGRANTS on Page 7

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Celebrating 80 years of peace in the Pacific

By **DON A. FARRELL**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

First, of course, my congratulations to the honorable Mayor of Saipan, “RB” Camacho, along with my Chamolinian brother Gordon Marciano and the ever-effervescent Gary Sword, founder of KKMP Radio. You and your team have done an excellent job of organizing this truly historic event.

My remarks are very short today. I only want to answer one question. Who do we have to thank for these 80 years of Peace in the Pacific?

I needn’t detail the battle for Saipan here. The bottom line is that although the Japanese soldiers and sailors on Saipan did their best to defend their “Little Waikiki” in the Marianas, the island fell to American forces on July 9, 1944. The Japanese leadership in Tokyo recognized that the loss of Saipan meant that B-29 bases would soon be built in the Marianas and shortly after than bombs would start falling on the Japanese Home Islands. Hideki Tojo, War Minister and Prime Minister of Japan at the time, the man most responsible for pushing Japan into war against the United States, was forced to resign along with his war cabinet. At that moment, Emperor Hirohito had an opportunity to end the war and save hundreds of thousands of Japanese lives, but did not.

Admiral Ernest J. King, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet, and General Henry “Hap” Arnold, commander of the 20th Air Force and all B-29 operations, firmly believed that Japan could be forced to surrender through strategic bombardment and blockade before a bloody invasion of the Japanese Home Islands became necessary. On the other hand, General George Marshall, commander of all U.S. Army forces, was convinced that as with Germany, U.S. armed forces would have to march into Tokyo and capture the Imperial Palace in order to force unconditional surrender.

President Harry S. Truman took office on April 12, 1945, upon the death of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Truman had never been involved in the Manhattan Project and was not aware of the atomic bombs. General Leslie Groves, Army Corps of Engineers, commander of the Manhattan Project, told Truman about the new plutonium-based bomb. If it worked, then the U.S. could manufacture an endless supply of atom bombs. The plutonium bomb mechanism was so new however, it would have to be tested. Eventually, the test was scheduled for July 16.

After Germany surrendered on May 8, 1945, Russian Generalissimos Joseph Stalin and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill wanted Truman to come to Germany and help draft the treaty ending the war in Europe. But before he met with Stalin, Truman wanted to know if the new bomb worked. He agreed to a meeting with Stalin and Churchill in Potsdam, German, just outside Berlin, and arrived there on July 15, 1945.

The plutonium bomb was tested in the desert of Alamogordo, New Mexico on July 16 and word was immediately passed to Truman that it had worked quite well. With this new weapon up his sleeve, Truman was ready to play poker with Stalin over the issue of self-determination for conquered people. Churchill had already warned Truman that the Russians were stealing everything of any value from the lands they had captured from Germany and taking them home to rebuild Mother Russia, leaving behind Communist advisors. Germany, itself, was being torn into four pieces. Truman did not like what he saw, but could do nothing about it.

On Aug. 6, flying from Tinian and according to plan, the uranium-based bomb nicknamed Little Boy was dropped on Hiroshima and worked. At daybreak on Aug. 8, Stalin sent his Red Army across the border into Manchuria, China, hurriedly joining



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

General Douglas MacArthur with Emperor Hirohito.

the war against Japan in an effort to gain some spoils from the Pacific War. Within days they reached a point from which they could para-drop Russian soldiers into Hokkaido, the northernmost of Japan’s home islands.

With no surrender offer, the first plutonium-based bomb, nick-named Fat Man, was dropped on Nagasaki on Aug. 9, and it worked. Early in the morning of Aug. 10, the Japanese made their first offer to surrender. With a slight modification allowing for the maintenance of the imperial system, Emperor Hirohito accepted “unconditional surrender” and announced his decision directly to the people of Japan on Aug. 15. Truman immediately announced America’s acceptance, before Stalin could drop any troops into Hokkaido.

After having watched how Stalin was tearing apart Germany and reorganizing Europe to his own advantage, Truman decided

that Japan would not be divided—it must remain unified.

Stalin wrote to Truman on Aug. 16: “I have received your message with the ‘General Order No. 1’. Principally I have no objections against the content of the order. However, . . . The Russian public opinion would be seriously offended if the Russian troops would not have an occupation region in some part of the Japanese proper territory.

Truman thought it over, figured out how to say “No!” as politely as possible, then responded on Aug. 18: “Regarding your suggestion as to the surrender of Japanese forces on the Island Hokkaido to Soviet forces, it is my intention and arrangements have been made for the surrender of Japanese forces on all the islands of Japan proper, Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu, to General MacArthur.”

Stalin did not press the issue at that time for two reasons: 1. Truman had the bomb, and 2. He was more concerned about getting all he wanted from Europe—at the time.

Equally important, Emperor Hirohito accepted the defeat on behalf of the people of Japan. As ordered, he reported to General MacArthur’s headquarters on Sept. 27. There, he stepped away from his role as emperor, took off his top hat and stood before MacArthur as a bare-headed subordinate and offered to work cooperatively at rebuilding Japan, which won the general’s favor.

Similarly, the emperor-like General MacArthur, stepped up from his military role to become America’s No. 1 diplomat in Japan. Both great leaders recognized they could accomplish more by working together at reconstructing Japan, both physically and politically.

To summarize, because President Truman had stood strong for maintaining a unified Japan, and because Hirohito and MacArthur stepped up to the task, a new Japan emerged from the occupation years. In 1951, alongside the Treaty of San Francisco, formally ending World War II, the U.S. and Japan signed a Mutual Security Treaty. With some modifications, that treaty between Japan and the United States stands stronger today than it has ever been.

Today, we are so blessed to be joined by such a wide variety of military and civilian leaders coming together on Saipan to jointly commemorate 80 years of Peace in the Pacific. I only hope, a similar, if not bigger, celebration will take place right here 20 years from now—A Century of Peace in the Pacific. That has a good ring to it, don’t you agree?

Thank you, all, very much.

Don A. Farrell is an educator, local historian, and author based on Tinian. He is known for his research and publications on the history of the Mariana Islands with an emphasis on World War II. He read this piece as the distinguished speaker during last Saturday’s 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Saipan Commemoration at the American Memorial Park.



U.S. President Harry S. Truman announces Japan’s unconditional surrender.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO






MIGRANTS

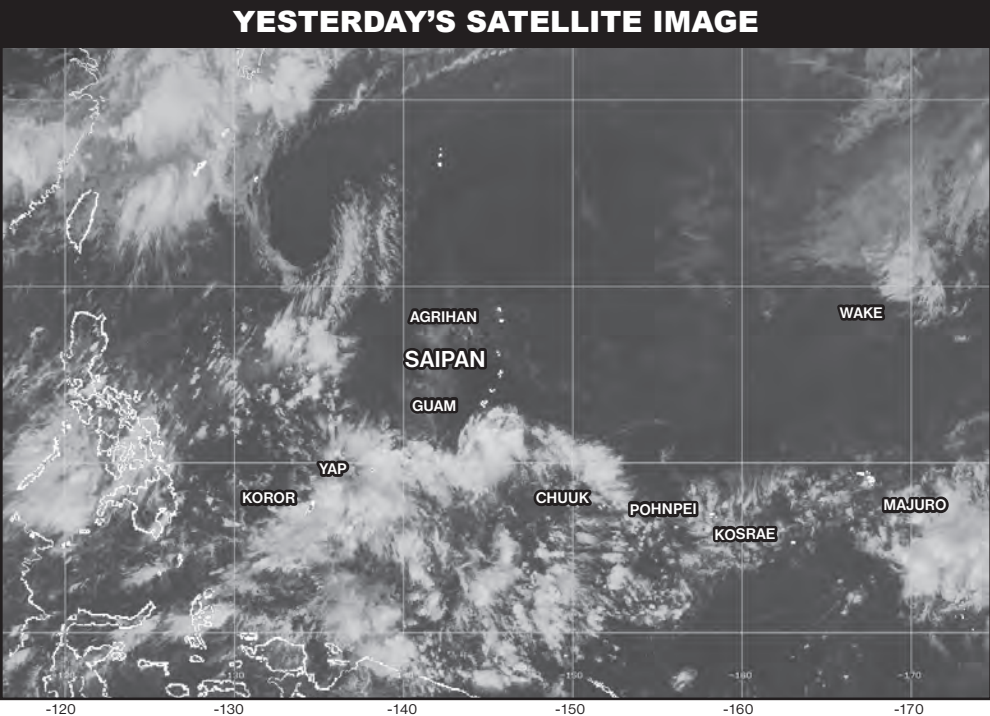
From page 6

Climate migrants also deserve full protection under international law, along with a recognition that pulling up and leaving for greener pastures is not a crime but a tool of survival and adaptation that humans have used for as long as there have been humans. As the number of climate safe havens dwindle, it helps to remember that eventually the climate migrants could be us.

—With assistance from Elaine He.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
89°	79°	89°	79°	89°	79°	89°	79°	89°	79°



PICTURE TIME: 4:39 AM MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery is showing partly cloudy skies and isolated trade showers over the Marianas. Latest altimetry data and Ritidian buoy are showing seas of 4 to 6 feet in the waters. Gentle to moderate winds prevail.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°	
Majuro	Cloudy	87° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:22 AM	3:22 PM
Wednesday	-	3:01 AM	4:16 PM
Thursday	-	3:45 AM	5:13 PM
Friday	-	4:35 AM	6:12 PM
Saturday	-	5:31 AM	7:12 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	59° / 50°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	95° / 66°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 54°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	93° / 65°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 81°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	61° / 43°	
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
New York	Sunny	84° / 69°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	81° / 73°	
Paris	Rain	66° / 50°	
Busan	Rain	79° / 70°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	73° / 61°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	87° / 72°	
San Francisco	Sunny	68° / 53°	
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	91° / 70°	
Tokyo	Rain	84° / 72°	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	87° / 65°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:56 AM	High Tide	1.95	
11:21 AM	Low Tide	0.32	
6:29 PM	High Tide	1.72	
11:04 PM	Low Tide	1.36	

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
				7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5	HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Joint Task Force Micronesia holds assumption of command ceremony



USAF

Rear Adm. Gregory C. Huffman delivers remarks during the Joint Task Force–Micronesia assumption of command ceremony on Andersen Air Force Base, June 14, 2024. During the ceremony, Rear Adm. Gregory C. Huffman assumed command, and will serve as the first two-star admiral in the area in over 70 years. The establishment of Joint Task Force–Micronesia reflects the commitment of Department of Defense to support our pacing challenge throughout the region and bolster homeland defense.



USAF

Adm. Samuel J. Paparo, commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, delivers remarks during the Joint Task Force Micronesia change of command ceremony on Andersen Air Force Base, June 14, 2024. During the ceremony, Rear Adm. Gregory C. Huffman assumed command, and will serve as the first two-star admiral in the area in over 70 years. The establishment of Joint Task Force–Micronesia reflects the commitment of the Department of Defense to support our pacing challenge throughout the region and bolster homeland defense.

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—Adm. Samuel J. Paparo, commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, presided over the establishment ceremony of Joint Task Force–Micronesia at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam on June 14, 2024, where Rear Adm. Gregory C. Huffman assumed command.

The milestone highlights the significance of the first two-star command in the region in more than 70 years.

“Defending this homeland through the vision of the Guam Defense System, commanded and controlled

by Joint Task Force–Micronesia is my No. 1 priority. This joint area of operations is critical terrain that enables the success of delivering integrated deterrence,” said Paparo. “By ensuring our joint force and our joint capabilities are in the right place at the right time, we are able to deliver strong deterrence to prevent conflict. Its strategic importance cannot be overstated.”

Huffman’s role as the senior military officer in the region, will emphasize the Department of Defense’s support to our pacing challenge throughout the region, and bolster relationships with U.S. allies and partner nations in the joint operating area.

The JTF-M joint operat-

ing area will include U.S. territories (Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Wake Island) and the Freely Associated States, comprised of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

“Our team thinks, acts, and operates differently, while continuing to be an innovative force that deters aggression. Our adversaries will see our accomplishments in the region, and they will see our commitment to strengthening relationships with our neighbors in the region,” said Huffman. “They will see how our military emphasizes a collaborative vision with our Allies and partners that prioritizes

stability and a free and open Indo-Pacific region.”

Huffman, the son of a career naval officer and a 1989 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, brings a wealth of insight to the role, based on his experience as the recent Commander of Joint Region Marianas.

The mission of the JTF-M is to synchronize operations and activities across all domains, enabling a robust warfighting posture, while enhancing partner nation capacity. The Task Force will promote regional stability, provide homeland defense, Defense Support to Civil Authorities, and foreign humanitarian assistance through a whole of government approach. **(PR)**



USAF

Adm. Samuel J. Paparo, commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, and Rear Adm. Gregory C. Huffman exchange salutes during the Joint Task Force – Micronesia assumption of command ceremony on Andersen Air Force Base, June 14, 2024. During the ceremony, Rear Adm. Gregory C. Huffman assumed command, and will serve as the first two-star admiral in the area in over 70 years. The establishment of Joint Task Force – Micronesia reflects the commitment of Department of Defense to support our pacing challenge throughout the region and bolster homeland defense.

San Nicolas introduces bill authorizing GDOE to operate schools

Democrat Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas introduced, on June 14, Bill No. 317-37 (COR), which will authorize the operation of Guam public schools that are awaiting inspection for School Year 2024-2025 should it pass into local law.

“Because of the stringent inspection regulations placed upon Guam public schools and the short timeframe given to the Guam Department of Education to comply with these regulations through Public Laws 37-4 and 37-26, 19 public schools around the island will not meet the inspection of deadline of June 30, 2024, and will not be allowed to operate for school year 2024-2025, forcing schools that are allowed to operate to accommodate the students of these 19 schools

and create undue stress to our education system,” said Sen. San Nicolas, author of Bill 317-37. “These 19 schools have safety regulations and standards in place and are deemed usable, so condemning these schools because they are pending inspection is unreasonable.”

This legislation intends to allow the operation of public schools that are pending Guam Department of Public Health inspections for the upcoming school year.

“Allowing the operation of Guam’s public schools while awaiting inspection will prevent stress on our education system, allowing the children of Guam to continue their education in a regular manner, and prevent their parents

from being subjected to the irregular schedules that will be created if the schools are shut down,” San Nicolas said.

Meanwhile, GDOE superintendent K. Erik Swanson supports the bill. He acknowledged the progress made in inspecting and repairing schools, emphasizing the significant strides taken despite the limitations in capacity and resources, during a meeting with Sen. San Nicolas.

“With 19 schools already inspected, the focus has been on addressing urgent repairs first. However, to complete the necessary work on each school, a timeline of a year is required for adequate preparation, repair, and re-inspections” said Dr. Swanson,

who’s calling for legislative support to extend the timeframe and provide the resources needed to continue and complete the task of ensuring safe and conducive learning environments for all students.

“This collaborative effort between the school district and legislators is crucial for the success of the initiative,” Dr. Swanson added.

Unlike Public Law 37-32, formerly known as Bill 158-37, which was introduced by San Nicolas in August 2023, GDOE schools that have failed DPHSS inspections may continue to operate at the discretion and approval of the superintendent of GDOE.

Sen. Joe S. San Agustin is a co-sponsor of the bill. This act shall be effective upon enactment. **(PR)**



San Nicolas

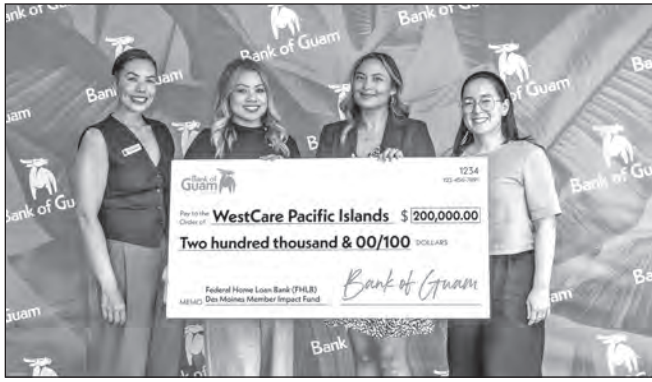
Business

BOG partners with FHLB Des Moines to award \$200K to WestCare Pacific Islands

HAGÁTÑA, Guam—Bank of Guam, in partnership with Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, announced that WestCare Pacific Islands will receive a \$200,000 grant from the FHLB Des Moines Member Impact Fund. The total grant was made possible through Bank of Guam's initial \$50,000 donation toward the Member Impact Fund to support WestCare's mission and services on recovery and resilience.

This matching grant program, which was introduced in 2023, will provide nearly \$20 million to eligible organizations in order to strengthen communities in targeted areas of FHLB Des Moines' district. In 2024, FHLB Des Moines increased the Member Impact Fund by \$10 million.

"As The People's Bank, we're honored to work again with FHLB Des Moines to help support our community organizations, especially those that uplift the human spirit. This partnership embodies our commitment to empowering communities and supporting our local partners that help to provide more affordable housing options for our local



From left, Lesley-Anne Leon Guerrero, senior vice president, chief experience officer, Bank of Guam; Beverlyn Coleman, vice president of Operations, WestCare Pacific Islands; Aja Ramos, chief operating officer, WestCare Pacific Islands; and Maria Eugenia H. Leon Guerrero, executive vice president and chief operating officer, Bank of Guam.

families and veterans," said BOG president and CEO Joaquin P. L.G. Cook.

WestCare offers a broad array of programs to uplift the most vulnerable populations in our community that address gaps in services. WestCare's experience includes culturally appropriate and adapted prevention programming, homeless support services, and treatment programs in Guam, Palau and the CNMI. These programs cater to youth, families, and communities addressing substance abuse dis-

order, mental health services, Veteran services, case management, and linkages to care for populations who would otherwise have little to no access to services. Since 2014, WestCare has delivered critical services to address homelessness through rapid re-housing, permanent housing, and supportive services programs.

In partnership with Bank of Guam, WestCare aims to assist individuals in obtaining and maintaining permanent housing by establishing roots

that help their clients succeed. Through the Member Impact Fund, WestCare will provide permanent supportive housing services to clients enrolled in any of their homeless support services programs including Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), Path To Freedom, and Håtsa.

"We thank Bank of Guam for being the heart of our community and for always standing by to help those who need it most. Your support has made a real difference in the lives of many. We also appreciate you for connecting us with FHLB, who has given us this incredible opportunity to expand our services and make a positive impact on our community, especially with our veterans. The generosity and compassion of Bank of Guam and FHLB is truly inspiring, said WestCare Pacific Islands chief operating officer Aja Ramos.

FHLB Des Moines provides funding solutions and liquidity to more than 1,200 members to support mortgage lending, economic development and affordable housing in the communities they serve. The Member Impact Fund provides \$3 for every \$1 of

an eligible FHLB Des Moines member's grant donation to strengthen the ability of not-for-profits or government entities to serve the affordable housing or community development needs of their communities. The Member Impact Fund awards are given in partnership with member financial institutions to communities in their districts to become more vibrant places to live and work.

The Member Impact Fund is part of FHLB Des Moines' ongoing mission to offer a variety of funding options through its members to support affordable housing and community development needs.

Kris Williams, president and CEO of FHLB Des Moines, shares, "We are thrilled to see grants from our Member Impact Fund having a direct, positive impact on the communities in which our members help advance affordable housing and community development needs in a meaningful way."

The Member Impact Fund matching program is available to organizations located in Hawaii, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Member institutions in these locations submitted applications in February and March 2024; funds were distributed directly to the member institution, which then provide the funding alongside a matching grant from FHLB Des Moines for the partner/recipient organization.

Recipient organizations were selected based on the needs for grant funding to support capacity-building or working capital necessary to strengthen their ability to serve affordable housing or community development needs, including training, predevelopment assistance, management information systems or software, strategic planning, market study or community needs assessment, and working capital. (PR)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Chinese premier promises more pandas and urges Australia to put aside differences

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Sunday promised a new pair of giant pandas to a zoo and urged Australia to set aside its differences with Beijing at the outset of the first visit to the country by China's second-highest ranking leader in seven years. China's most powerful politician after President Xi Jinping arrived late Saturday in Adelaide, the capital of South Australia state, which has produced most of the Australian wine entering China since crippling tariffs were lifted in March that had effectively ended a 1.2 billion Australian dollar (\$790 million) a year trade since 2020. Li's trip has focused so far on the panda diplomacy, rebounding trade including wine and recovering diplomatic links after China initiated a reset of the relationship in 2022 that had all but collapsed during Australia's previous conservative administration's nine years in power. Relations tumbled over legislation that banned covert foreign interference in Australian politics, the exclusion of Chinese-owned telecommunications giant Huawei from rolling out the national 5G network due to security concerns, and Australia's call for an independent investigation into the causes of and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Supreme Court strikes down Trump-era ban on rapid-fire rifle bump stocks, reopening political fight

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court on Friday struck down a Trump-era ban on bump stocks, the rapid-fire gun accessories used in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, in a ruling that threw firearms back into the nation's political spotlight. The high court's conservative majority found that the Trump administration overstepped when it changed course from predecessors and banned bump stocks, which allow a rate of fire comparable to machine guns. The decision came after a gunman in Las Vegas attacked a country music festival with semiautomatic rifles equipped with the accessories. The gunman fired more than 1,000 rounds into the crowd in 11 minutes, sending thousands of people fleeing in terror as hundreds were wounded and dozens killed. The ruling thrust guns back into the center of the political conversation with an unusual twist as Democrats decried the reversal of a GOP administration's action and many Republicans backed the ruling. The 6-3 majority opinion written by Justice Clarence Thomas found the Justice Department was wrong to declare that bump stocks transformed semiautomatic rifles into illegal machine guns because, he wrote, each trigger depression in rapid succession still only releases one shot.

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Life & Style

AS WOMEN MAKE STRIDES AT TONY AWARDS

‘The Outsiders’ wins best musical and ‘Stereophonic’ best play

NEW YORK (AP)—“The Outsiders,” a gritty adaptation of the classic young adult novel, became the essence of a Broadway insider on Sunday, winning the Tony Award for best new musical on a night when women made strides.

The musical based on the beloved S. E. Hinton book is about rival gangs of haves and have-nots in 1960s Oklahoma. The win meant Angelina Jolie, a producer, landed her first Tony, too.

Producer Matthew Rego, in his acceptance speech, thanked Hinton, in the audience at Manhattan’s Lincoln Center: “Susie, I’m here to tell you that your story and its eternal message of love and family and staying gold has forever changed all of our lives.”

“Stereophonic,” the play about a Fleetwood Mac-like band recording an album over a turbulent and life-changing year, won best new play and had the night’s most total awards at five. It was written by David Adjmi, with songs by former Arcade Fire member Will Butler.

“Oh, no. My agent gave me a beta blocker, but it’s not working,” Adjmi said. He added the play took 11 years to manifest.

“This was a very hard journey to get up here,” he said. “We need to fund the arts in America.”

Two special guests electrified the crowd—Jay-Z and Hillary Rodham Clinton. The latter, a producer of a musical about suffragettes,



The members of the company of “Stereophonic” perform during the 77th Tony Awards on Sunday, June 16, 2024, in New York.

presented “Suffs.”

“I have stood on a lot of stages, but this is very special,” Clinton said. “I know a little bit about how hard it is to make change.”

In the first musical presentation, Alicia Keys appeared at a piano as the cast of her semi-autobiographical musical, “Hell’s Kitchen,” presented a medley of songs. She sang her and Jay-Z’s 2009 smash “Empire State of Mind,” joining the rapper on interior steps to wild applause.

Later, newcomer Maleah Joi Moon won best leading actress for “Hell’s Kitchen,” brushing aside a challenge from veteran Kelli O’Hara. The 21-year-old, who plays a role loosely based on Keys’ life, dedicated her award to her parents.

Danya Taymor—whose aunt is Julie Taymor, the first woman to win a Tony Award for directing a musical — became the sixth woman to win the same

award for “The Outsiders.”

Then Shaina Taub, only the second woman in Broadway history to write, compose and star in a Broadway musical, won for best score, the ninth woman to do so. The “Suffs” creator had already won for best book earlier in the night.

“If you are inspired by the story of ‘Suffs,’ please make sure you and everyone you know have registered to vote and vote, vote, vote!” she said. Taub said the win was for all the loud girls out there: “Go for it.”

Jeremy Strong took home the first big award of the night. The “Succession” star landed his first Tony for his work in the revival of Henrik Ibsen’s 1882 political play “An Enemy of the People.” The award for best lead actor in a play will sit next to his Emmy, Screen Actors Guild Award and Golden Globe.

Kara Young, the first Black performer to be nominated for a Tony three consecutive years

List of winners at the 2024 Tony Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Winners at the 2024 Tony Awards, announced Sunday.

■ Best Musical: “The Outsiders”

■ Best Play: “Stereophonic”

■ Best Revival of a Musical: “Merrily We Roll Along”

■ Best Revival of a Play: “Appropriate”

■ Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Musical: Maleah Joi Moon, “Hell’s Kitchen”

■ Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Musical: Jonathan Groff, “Merrily We Roll Along”

■ Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Play: Sarah Paulson, “Appropriate”

■ Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Play: Jeremy Strong, “An Enemy of the People”

■ Best Performance by an

Actor in a Featured Role in a Musical: Daniel Radcliffe, “Merrily We Roll Along”

■ Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Role in a Musical: Kecia Lewis, “Hell’s Kitchen”

■ Best Performance by an Actor in a Featured Role in a Play: Will Brill, “Stereophonic”

■ Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Role in a Play: Kara Young, “Purlie Victorious: A Non-Confederate Romp Through the Cotton Patch”

■ Best Direction of a Play: Daniel Aukin, “Stereophonic”

■ Best Direction of a Musical: Danya Taymor, “The Outsiders”

■ Best Original Score: “Suffs,” music & lyrics: Shaina Taub

■ Best Book of a Musical: “Suffs,” Shaina Taub

■ Best Choreography:

Justin Peck, “Illinoise”

■ Best Costume Design of a Play: Dede Ayite, “Jaja’s African Hair Braiding”

■ Best Costume Design of a Musical: Linda Cho, “The Great Gatsby”

■ Best Orchestrations: Jonathan Tunick, “Merrily We Roll Along”

■ Best Scenic Design of a Musical: Tom Scutt, “Cabaret at the Kit Kat Club”

■ Best Scenic Design of a Play: David Zinn, “Stereophonic”

■ Best Lighting Design of a Musical: Hana S. Kim and Brian MacDevitt, “The Outsiders”

■ Best Lighting Design of a Play: Jane Cox, “Appropriate”

■ Best Sound Design of a Play: Ryan Rumery, “Stereophonic”

■ Best Sound Design of a Musical: Cody Spencer, “The Outsiders” (AP)

in a row, won this time as best featured actress in a play for “Purlie Victorious,” the story of a Black preacher’s plan to reclaim his inheritance and win back his church from a plantation owner.

“Thank you to my ancestors,” she said, giving thanks to a list that included playwright Ossie Davis and co-star Ruby Dee, who originated her role.

“Harry Potter” star Daniel Radcliffe cemented his stage career pivot by winning

featured actor in a musical, his first trophy in five Broadway shows. He won for the revival of “Merrily We Roll Along,” the Stephen Sondheim-George Furth musical that goes backward in time.

“This is one of the best experiences of my life,” Radcliffe said. “I will never have it as good again.” He also thanked his parents for playing Sondheim in the car growing up.

“Merrily” was also named

best musical revival and earned Jonathan Groff his first Tony, for leading actor in a musical. Groff—previously nominated for “Spring Awakening” and “Hamilton”—thanked co-stars Lindsay Mendez and Radcliffe, both emotional in the audience.

Groff, who said he used to watch the Tonys in Pennsylvania as a kid, also thanked his parents and brother for letting him act out scenes from “I Love Lucy” as a child.

Flirty manager makes work less and less comfortable

DEAR ABBY: I am single, never married. A male manager at my job is divorced. After a few weeks at the job, I realized we were both single. I have been here for about a year. This manager is flirty and appears to be into me. He acts a lot like my brother-in-law, who I don’t get along with, so I have tried to avoid the situation. I don’t want to date anyone who reminds me of my brother-in-law.

This manager complained to a second manager last month about his impression that I don’t like him. I need this job because it’s one of the few I have found with good health insurance. Now I have to interact with the manager in the hope that he no longer assumes I don’t like him, but it’s really awkward.

I doubt it would go well if I point out my suspicion that this guy is into me. I suppose he might just be a flirt who hits on lots of girls or someone who doesn’t realize they’re flirting with their team members. What can I do?

NEEDS THE JOB IN THE WEST

DEAR NEEDS: There is a middle ground between being openly hostile to this manager and acting like you are interested in him. Be professional, cordial and business-like. If he makes a move on you or asks to see you outside of business hours, tell him you do not socialize with fellow employees. However, if he continues after that, be

sure to document it. Then tell the other manager that you are uncomfortable and that this situation is creating a hostile working environment.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I’ve been in a relationship with “Blake” for 24 years, and his siblings won’t talk to me. They come over, knock on the door, tell Blake they are here and then wait for him to come outside. They say it’s because of my cigarette smoke, but I’ve tried going outside and joining them numerous times.

When I say something, even Blake ignores me, and they move away and start talking again. I asked him why they treat me like I’m not there. He says he has no clue. I have asked HIM to ask them why they don’t talk to me, but he says he always forgets to do it.

My family treats Blake like family. He is accepted and included in everything, even though they don’t care for him. Should I feel left out? How can I attempt to solve this? Or should I just give up? It really hurts my feelings.

NONEXISTENT IN WASHINGTON

DEAR NONEXISTENT: You cannot “solve” the rudeness of Blake’s relatives or the fact that the man you love has allowed it to continue for 24 years. (!) You can, however, grow a thicker hide and stop allowing them to get to you.

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Blake’s family doesn’t like you, which I’m sure is reciprocal. Your family doesn’t like him either, although they have enough class to tolerate his presence. If I thought there was anything you could do to change the dynamic, I’d gladly share it. But the best I can offer is to forget about wanting to be accepted and keep yourself busy (or absent) during those visits.

■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



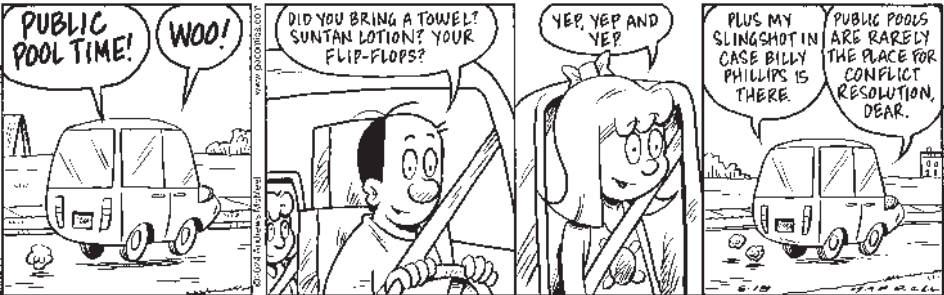
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



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By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Bath powder, 5 Tennyson poem, 9 — Moines, 12 Hum-drum, 13 Taj Mahal site, 14 Slangy suffix, 15 Purchases with cell phones, 17 "The Voice" network, 18 D.C. baseball team, 19 Abhors, 21 "Star Wars" baddie, 24 Gunk, 25 Israeli airline, 26 Winter hat features, 30 "Kidding!", 31 Decorator's theme, 32 PBS funder, 33 Intensified.

DOWN: 1 Sched. place-holder, 2 Pie — mode, 3 Long. crosser, 4 Chic Coco, 5 Beer ingredient, 6 Turkish officials, 7 Coffee vessel, 8 Write quickly, 9 "Stay calm", 10 North Sea feeder, 11 Pouchlike parts, 16 Standard, 20 "You've got mail" co., 21 Peddle, 22 Skin cream ingredient, 23 Tropical trees, 24 Cross-word diagram, 26 Billions of years, 27 Devoured, 28 High point, 29 Back talk, 31 Gad about, 34 Greek letter, 35 Patted baby on the back, 37 Bit of ink, 38 Lima's land, 39 Floral rings, 40 El —, Texas, 41 New newts, 44 Arctic explorer John, 45 Here (Fr.), 46 Michael of "SNL", 47 Decks in the ring.

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-18

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Blake Shelton, 48; Carol Kane, 72; Isabella Rossellini, 72; Paul McCartney, 82.

Happy Birthday: Spend time with people of interest, and discover what options are available to you. There is a shift in how you think and what you want to do next, which can lead to an opportunity to awaken your senses and help yourself find your purpose in life. Don't deny yourself the chance to try something new. Follow your heart. Don't give anyone the right to pressure you or choose for you. Your numbers are 6, 13, 18, 24, 27, 38, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Think before you act or speak in order to avoid a rift with someone close to you. Laugh at your mistakes, and be willing to compromise and learn something from the experiences you encounter. Don't be fooled by scams or someone trying to sell you something.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Use your energy wisely. Take advantage of any opportunity that brings you closer to someone you love. Your attitude will determine how well you do personally and professionally. Awareness and kindness will help you get the most out of your day. A change will lift your spirits.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Reflect and review your financial situation. Add to your skills and qualifications if doing so will help you perform more efficiently. Don't follow the crowd when it's you who needs to feel satisfied. Take matters into your own hands and choose what excites you most.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Participation will connect you to someone or something that can help you advance. Having discipline and the courage to act will

prompt you to make a move that leads to a financial or health improvement. Trust your instincts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Balance is necessary to come out on top. Refuse to let anyone talk you into doing something you don't want. Look for opportunities, and take positive action to ensure you complete responsibilities and have a little time for yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your happiness is your responsibility. Consider what you need and want. A change that offers contentment or a chance to fulfill a dream or goal will build confidence and the desire to live life your way. Put your heart and soul into something.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take more time to plan your next project or purchase. Preparation is vital if you want to turn your desires into an opportunity instead of a loss. Don't let anyone decide for you or talk you into something you don't need.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Embrace something that moves and enthralls you. Put your mind to work and bring your physical skills on board to help you reach your goal. Make a change that will encourage you to enjoy life more and to head down a path that enriches your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do what comes naturally. Refuse to get involved in someone else's goal if it will take you away from what's important to you. Be true to yourself and embrace the opportunities that resonate with you mentally, physically and financially.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stick to the truth and avoid the consequences. Putting your energy where it counts will have the biggest and best influence on your health and emotional well-being. A change at home will positively impact your relationships.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A domestic change that allows you space and time to pursue something that brings you joy will be uplifting and build self-confidence. Choose to give your energy a physical outlet, and you'll avoid a mental battle with someone you love. Simplicity, compromise and intelligence will pay off.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Use your imagination, and you'll devise a plan that saves or makes you money. A move will lead to an unexpected opportunity and information that will help you thrive as you move forward. Use your power of persuasion to get others on board with your plans.

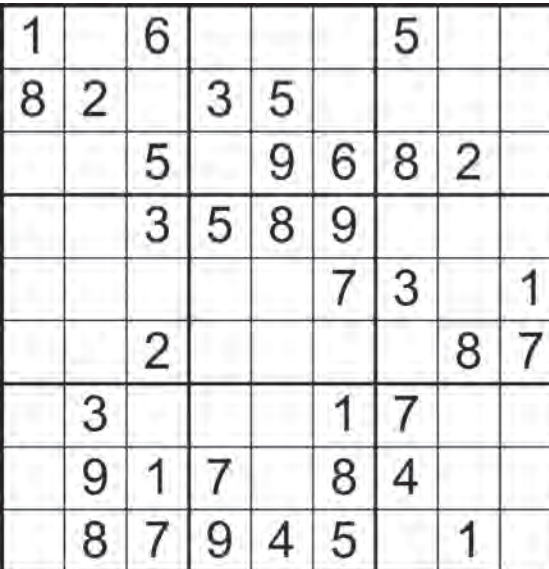
Birthday Baby: You are charming, persuasive and engaging. You are perceptive and imaginative.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★ 6/18 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TONGUE TWISTERS Solution: 7 letters

T H R O A T T L U C I F F I D
P H B A L L I T E R A T I O N
A T E W E C I T C A R P N E I
C U G A S I M P L E E O R C M
E O I R T S A F X R I D F N U
T M N M L E T E F T L R A E S
A O N U U N R O A I E S L T I
R T E P E C R C H T E K P N C
T I R C I M I C T A E N H E I
N V C S A N L E S B N I A S M
E A E N U E L H C E U H B O H
C T C M A E E P O E M T E N T
N E M R A L A I C A F A T G Y
O O Y R L C H A L L E N G E H
C O N S O N A N T T A E P E R

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Accent, Alliteration, Alphabet, Beginner, Butter, Challenge, Children, Clear, Communication, Concentrate, Consonant, Difficult, Exercise, Facial, Fast, Game, Learn, Letter, Mind, Motivate, Mouth, Music, Pace, Performance, Poem, Practice, Repeat, Rhythmic, Seashells, Sentence, Simple, Song, Theater, Think, Throat, Warmup
Yesterday's Answer: Changing
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 62 through 77, order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Orioles beat Phillies, 6-2, behind Santander's four RBIs



BALTIMORE

(AP)—Anthony Santander homered twice and drove in four runs, and Grayson Rodriguez worked seven solid innings to lift the Baltimore Orioles to a 6-2 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies on Saturday.

Rodriguez (8-2) allowed two runs for the Orioles, who rebounded after an 11-inning loss to Philadelphia in the series opener. Baltimore led 3-2 before Santander hit a two-run shot in the eighth. Gunnar Henderson added an RBI single later that inning.

Santander's solo homer came in the fourth, and he put the Orioles up 3-2 with a sixth-inning sacrifice fly.

Edmundo Sosa hit a solo home run for the Phillies, who scored in each of the first two innings. Taijuan Walker (3-2) yielded three runs in 5 2/3 innings.

Alec Bohm, who doubled home two runs in the 11th the previous night, opened the scoring by slicing an RBI double to the gap in right-center field. Sosa's homer made it 2-0.

Adley Rutschman hit a sacrifice fly in the third for the Orioles, and Santander's 16th homer of the season tied it at 2.

CUBS 5, CARDINALS 1

(AP)—Shota Imanaga pitched seven effective innings and Ian Happ hit a three-run homer, helping Chicago hold off St. Louis.

Imanaga allowed one run and four hits in his second straight win. The Japanese left-hander struck out six and walked none while improving to 3-0 with a 1.31 ERA in his first seven starts at Wrigley Field.

Chicago had lost three of four and 15 of 21. It was the team's first win in four games against rival St. Louis this season.

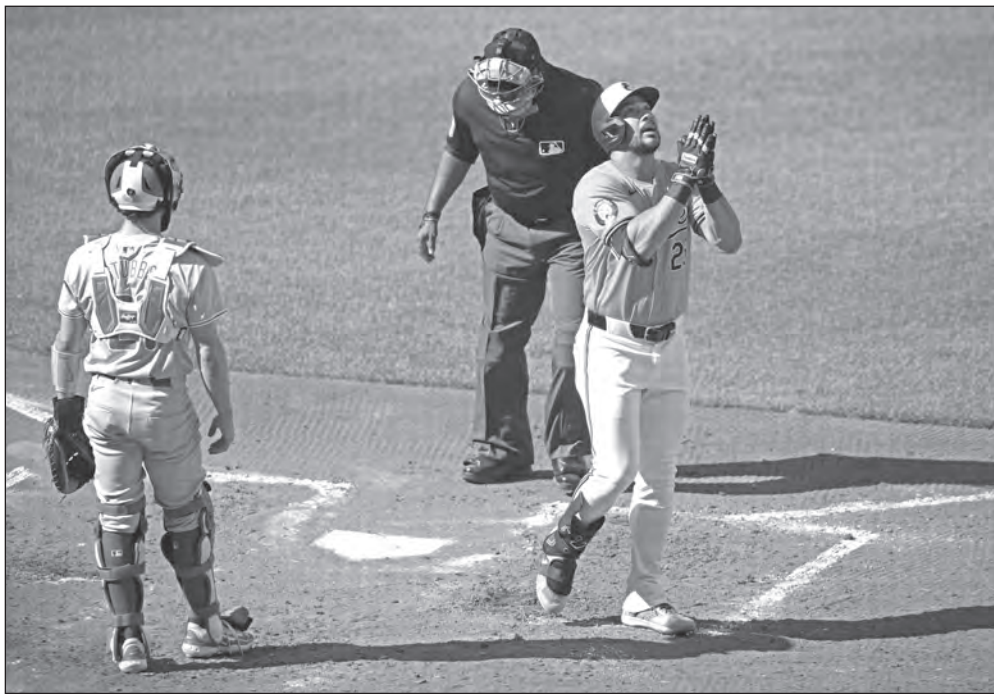
The Cardinals threatened in the seventh, putting runners on first and second with one out. But Imanaga (7-1) retired Dylan Carlson on a flyball and struck out Brendan Donovan, preserving a 2-1 lead.

BLUE JAYS 5, GUARDIANS 0

(AP)—Six pitchers combined on an eight-hitter, George Springer scored twice and drove in a run, and Toronto beat Cleveland.

Isiah Kiner-Falefa had two hits and rookie Addison Barger had his first big league RBI for the Blue Jays, who are 26-3 when scoring five runs or more.

Opener Trevor Richards allowed one hit over 2 1/3 innings, throwing 31 pitches. Tim Mayza and Zach Pop got one out each, and Bowden Francis (3-2) gave up four hits—all singles—over four



Baltimore Orioles' Anthony Santander, right, celebrates his home run past Philadelphia Phillies catcher Garrett Stubbs, left, and home plate umpire Laz Diaz, center, during the fourth inning of a baseball game, Saturday, June 15, 2024, in Baltimore.

innings. Génesis Cabrera worked the eighth and Nate Pearson finished Toronto's fifth shutout.

NATIONALS 4, MARLINS 0

(AP)—DJ Herz struck out 13 and allowed one hit over six innings for his first major league victory, combining on a four-hitter that led Washington over Miami.

Joey Meneses and Lane Thomas homered for Washington, which has won seven of eight overall and improved to 6-0 against Miami this year.

Herz (1-1), a 23-year-old left-hander who made his major league debut June 4, walked none. He struck out eight of his first 10 batters and his total was the second-highest by a rookie for the Nationals since the team moved to Washington for 2005, trailing only Stephen Strasburg's 14 in his debut on June 8, 2010.

Herz did not make it out of the fifth inning in his first two starts. He lowered his ERA from 6.48 to 3.77.

BREWERS 3, REDS 1

(AP)—Joey Ortiz hit a three-run homer, Bryse Wilson gave up three hits in 5 1/3 innings and Milwaukee beat Cincinnati.

The Reds, who had won nine of 11 games, dropped to 34-36 and missed a chance to climb back to .500 for the first time since they were 16-16 on May 3.

Jared Koenig opened for Milwaukee and pitched to three batters before Wilson (4-3) took the mound with a runner at first. Wilson walked two and struck out six. The Brewers' defense helped out with two double plays.

Bryan Hudson retired the side in order in the seventh

and eighth. Trevor Megill ran into trouble in the ninth, but recovered for his 12th save in 13 chances.

ANGELS 4, GIANTS 3

(AP)—Luis Rengifo hit a go-ahead RBI single in the seventh inning, Logan O'Hoppe hit a two-run homer and Los Angeles rallied to beat San Francisco.

With two outs in the seventh, Nolan Schanuel walked, stole his first career base and advanced to third on an error by Giants catcher Curt Casali. Rengifo broke a 3-3 tie with a two-out soft single off Ryan Walker (4-3) that scored Schanuel.

Mickey Moniak extended his hitting streak to seven games with a solo homer in the second for the Angels, a day after having three hits.

BRAVES 9, RAYS 2

(AP)—Marcell Ozuna had three hits including one of four Atlanta home runs as their offensive resurgence continued in a rout of Tampa Bay.

Charlie Morton (4-3) allowed one run on three hits over six innings while striking out eight, walking two and hitting two batters. He also picked a runner off first.

Jarred Kelenic, in his first game batting leadoff for the Braves after a hamstring injury to Michael Harris II, was 3 for 5 with a home run and two RBIs, while Austin Riley hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning. Matt Olson hit his 11th home run of the season.

Ozuna's two RBIs gave him an NL-leading 62 for the season.

Ryan Pepiot (4-4) suffered his first road loss of the season for the Rays, who have lost seven of nine. He gave up five

runs on six hits, walked three and struck out four.

METS 5, PADRES 1

(AP)—J.D. Martinez homered twice, Jose Quintana ended a 10-start winless streak and New York beat San Diego for their eighth win in 10 games.

Martinez walked in his first two plate appearances against Adam Mazur (0-2), then homered off Jhony Brito to cap a three-run fourth and hit a solo drive in the seventh against Enyel De Los Santos.

Both homers were opposite-field drives and gave Martinez 23 multihomer games. He has 15 RBIs in his last 14 games after getting 11 in his first 29 with New York.

Brandon Nimmo hit RBI doubles in the fourth and eighth innings for the Mets, who have won four straight.

Quintana (2-5) allowed two hits in six innings, giving up rookie Jackson Merrill's third homer in as many games. Quintana was 0-4 with a 5.86 ERA in his previous 10 starts and had not won since April 11 at Atlanta.

TIGERS 13, ASTROS 5

(AP)—Riley Greene homered in each of the first two innings and set career highs with four hits and six RBIs as Detroit raced to a huge lead and cruised to a win over Houston.

The Tigers jumped on starter Spencer Arrighetti (3-6) for five hits and seven runs in just 1 1/3 innings. The 24-year-old got the start after Justin Verlander was scratched with neck discomfort Saturday morning.

Matt Vierling, Carson Kelly and Colt Keith each hit a solo homer to give Detroit a season-high five home runs. Wenceel Pérez added a career-

best four hits with two RBIs as the Tigers piled up 19 hits—their most this season.

MARINERS 7, RANGERS 5

(AP)—Julio Rodríguez hit a two-run homer, his second in three games, George Kirby allowed an unearned run over six innings and Seattle held off Texas.

Seattle won for the sixth time in seven games and won its ninth consecutive series at home dating to mid-April. The Mariners also increased their lead over the defending champion Rangers to 7 1/2 games in the AL West. It's the largest division lead for Seattle at any point since June 18, 2003, when it also had a 7 1/2-game advantage.

Kirby (6-5) didn't give up a hit until Wyatt Langford's infield single with one out in the fourth inning. Kirby leaned heavily on a fastball at the top of the strike zone and scattered three hits over six innings. Marcus Semien had an RBI double in the fifth inning, but Kirby finished his outing by striking out the side in the sixth.

Rodriguez hit a tying home run in the ninth inning Thursday night against the Chicago White Sox and his power has been on an uptick after a slow start. Rodríguez hit a 1-2 cutter from Texas starter Nathan Eovaldi (3-3) an estimated 412 feet for his seventh homer and a 3-0 lead in the third inning.

RED SOX 8, YANKEES 4

(AP)—Rafael Devers hit a two-run double and Boston ended Carlos Rodón's seven-start winning streak by beating New York.

Tyler O'Neill and rookie Jamie Westbrook had RBI doubles in a three-run first inning for the Red Sox, who rebounded from an 8-1 loss in Friday's series opener to win before just the second sellout at Fenway Park this season.

Boston improved to 33-9 wearing their City Connect uniforms with bright yellow jerseys and powder blue lettering, including 18-5 in the past two years.

Rodón (9-3) had allowed three or fewer runs in 13 of 14 starts this season. O'Neill and Westbrook sandwiched their doubles around Connor Wong's run-scoring's single.

ROYALS 7, DODGERS 2

(AP)—MJ Melendez hit a grand slam to conclude a 12-pitch at-bat, Seth Lugo became the AL's first 10-game winner and Kansas City defeated Los Angeles as Yoshinobu Yamamoto's start was cut short after two innings due to

triceps tightness.

Kansas City loaded the bases on three straight walks by Blake Treinen. Melendez fouled off six straight pitches with a 2-2 count, but worked the count full when Treinen threw a cutter inside.

Treinen went to the cutter again on the next pitch, but it was slightly elevated inside the strike zone as Melendez drove it over the right-field wall for his first career grand slam and a 5-2 lead. Kansas City had dropped five of six coming in.

ROCKIES 16, PIRATES 4

(AP)—Hunter Goodman had two homers and five RBIs in his first four-hit game, Ryan McMahon doubled twice and stole home, and Colorado scored their most runs in two years in a rout of Pittsburgh.

Goodman made his second big league start at catcher and put the Rockies ahead with a 440-foot solo homer in the third inning against rookie Jared Jones (4-6). He doubled in a run in a three-run fourth, singled and scored in the sixth, hit a 429-foot, two-run homer in the seventh off Justin Bruihl and had an RBI groundout in a six-run eighth that included Michael Toglia's grand slam against Dennis Santana.

Colorado had six doubles, a triple and three home runs in its highest-scoring game since a 16-5 win over St. Louis on Aug. 9, 2022.

Andrew McCutchen and Nick Gonzales homered for the Pirates, who had won their previous five games at Coors Field. McCutchen joined Jeff Kent and Giancarlo Stanton as the only visiting players to homer in five straight games at the mile-high ballpark.

WHITE SOX 9, DIAMONDBACKS 2

(AP)—Chicago scored its first run after what appeared to be an intentional balk, Lenyn Sosa hit a three-run homer as they picked up a rare road win with a victory over Arizona.

Erick Fedde (5-1) was sharp, allowing two runs on eight hits in six innings with six strikeouts.

Chicago had plenty of pop a night after managing one run in the series opener, finishing with four homers and 12 hits.

Andrew Vaughn homered and had three RBIs, Korey Lee hit a two-run shot and Paul DeJong had a solo homer in the White Sox's seventh win in 31 road games.

The Diamondbacks gave them a boost in the third inning with what may have been an intentional balk by Thyago Vieira (0-1).

Celts back home with chance to close out Mavs, clinch record 18th title



BOSTON

(AP) — The Boston Celtics' catastrophic performance in Game 4 of the NBA Finals gave them a chance to clinch another championship on Monday night under the 17 banners already hanging in the TD Garden rafters.

And, coach Joe Mazzulla reminded them, that they would still have two more chances after that.

"We don't like to lose," Celtics guard Jaylen Brown said before practice on Sunday. "I think we are ready for Game 5. I think that's the best answer that I've got. I think that we're ready. We're at home. And we're looking forward to it."

The Celtics cruised through the regular season with the best record in the NBA and then did even better in the playoffs, never trailing in a series while winning 15 of their first 17 games. They opened a 3-0 lead on Dallas, but the Mavericks avoided elimination with a 122-84 victory on Friday night—the third-biggest blowout in Finals history.

That sent the series back to Boston, where the Celtics will again try to win their unprecedented 18th NBA title—and their first since 2008. In a city that's collected 12 championships already this century, that's what passes for a drought.

"This is what we all work for," Brown said. "We are at the precipice of completing what we set out to do at the beginning of the season. So I think it's not difficult to get everybody in that locker room on the same page right now."



Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) goes up for a basket in front of Dallas Mavericks forward P.J. Washington during the first half in Game 3 of the NBA basketball finals, Wednesday, June 12, 2024, in Dallas. AP

The Game 4 loss snapped Boston's franchise-record 10-game postseason winning streak (and also ended Kyrie Irving's personal 13-game losing streak against his former team). Boston had been 3-0 in potential elimination games so far during these playoffs.

But the Celtics know—and Dallas surely does as well—that they still have three more chances to close out the series. All-Star Jayson Tatum said Mazzulla told his team

on Sunday not to "surrender to that idea that we have to win tomorrow."

While it's unusual for a coach to diverge from the "one game at a time" mentality, the Celtics said the acknowledgement that they have three tries to win one game takes some of the pressure off them—pressure that may have gotten to them in their total dud of a Game 4.

"We would love to win tomorrow—more than any-

thing," Tatum said. "But if it doesn't happen, it's not the end of the world. We have more opportunities."

Irving said that the Mavericks are also trying to "enjoy the moment" and not focus on the fact that no NBA team has ever come back from a 3-0 deficit in a playoff series. Game 6 would be back in Dallas on Thursday, with the potential deciding Game 7 in Boston on Sunday.

"(We are) just thinking

about the goal that we have in front of us as best we can, and try not to get tired of everyone talking about the history that has not been made," Irving said. "We got a chance to accomplish one of our goals, which is to make it back to Boston. We have another goal in front of us, and that's to make it back to Dallas."

That will be a lot harder if Boston center Kristaps Porzingis is available. The 7-foot-2

Latvian was listed on Sunday as questionable with a dislocated tendon in his left ankle.

Porzingis did not speak to reporters on Sunday. He practiced with the team wearing a white sleeve on his right leg, and during the 30 minutes that reporters were able to observe him on the court he was gingerly putting up shots from inside the lane, apparently taking care not to jump.

"I'm not sure where he's at," Mazzulla said. "But he's trying and doing everything he can to try to put himself in position to be out there. I know that for sure."

Porzingis missed 10 straight playoff games after straining his right calf in the first-round series against Miami. He returned for Game 1 of the finals and was a big reason for Boston's victory, scoring 20 points with six rebounds and three blocked shots in 21 minutes.

But Porzingis dislocated a tendon in his left leg in Game 2, did not play in Game 3 and was said to be available for Game 4 "on a specific basis, if needed." (With the Celtics quickly falling behind in a 38-point loss, he never checked into the game.)

Less of a concern is the status of Mavericks star Luka Dončić, who has been on the injury report with injuries to his right knee and left ankle along with a bruised chest. He went through the warmups for Game 2 with his torso and knee wrapped, but delivered a triple double in the loss.

"At this point in the season, a lot of things going on," he said on Sunday. "If I'm playing, I'm fine. No worries."

Lively leaving impression as Mavericks try to stay alive in NBA Finals

Dereck Lively II drained the first 3-pointer of his career, forced a missed layup at the other end and ping-ponged back down the court to slam home an alley-oop pass.

The Dallas Mavericks didn't trail again in Game 4 of the NBA Finals against Boston following that first-quarter sequence from their 7-foot-1 rookie center.

And while a series loss to the Celtics with the title on the line still seems inevitable, the 20-year-old from Duke has left an impression on the global basketball stage.

Never mind the unmistakable imprint from Lively on a franchise that tanked to try to preserve the first-round draft pick that landed him—but wasn't really expecting this much this soon.

"I think people forget he's a rookie," superstar Luka Dončić said after the 122-84

blowout in Game 4 that kept Boston from sweeping. "He's a rookie doing this stuff. He's been amazing the whole season. Just watching him grow was unbelievable."

Next up for Lively is trying to make a little more noise in Boston. The chance comes in Game 5 on Monday night.

In the two Dallas losses at TD Garden, he had a combined four points on four shots with 12 rebounds.

Lively grabbed at least that many rebounds in each game in Dallas, scoring 11 points both times to join Magic Johnson (1980) as the only rookies with consecutive double-doubles in the NBA Finals.

He won't be the focal point for the jeers from the opposing crowd—fellow Duke alum Kyrie Irving is the foil for Boston fans after spurning their team in free agency five years ago and fueling the rage

with his antics on the parquet floor since then.

Lively feels the need to prepare for it nonetheless.

"It's going to be loud and nasty," Lively said. "You do your best not to focus on the crowd. There's going to be a lot of people talking to you. It's part of the game. Part of the job."

When the Mavericks added another pick-and-roller and rim protector before the trade deadline in Daniel Gafford, it figured to be for depth behind Lively.

But Lively was in and out of the lineup because of injuries in the second half of the season, and the Mavs went 18-2 in a 20-game stretch with Gafford as the starter.

Gafford has started every playoff game, but the pendulum has swung back to Lively as the primary contributor at center. His earliest entry into

a game in the finals, with 9:30 left in the first quarter in Game 4, came not long before the corner 3 that sent the crowd into a frenzy.

Had the score been closer, Lively probably would have had a second consecutive 30-minute game. At one point in the second half, he already had all 12 of his rebounds while Boston's entire team had 16.

"A lot of this playoff season, playoff series, has just been finding out who we are, finding how much can we get hit and then throw one back," Lively said. "It's definitely been an enjoyable time to just see my teammates and myself just grow and adapt with one another with what's going on on the floor."

Fans might have been asking what was going on when Dončić passed to Lively behind the 3-point line in the cor-

ner — and Lively shot it. The scene unfolded seven months to the day since Lively's most recent shot from behind the arc, one of just two in the regular season.

His fellow Mavs shrugged it off after the game.

"He can shoot," coach Jason Kidd. "But as a 20-year-old, he's grown up in the AAU circuit where in high school, he could shoot, he could handle. He'd tell you he played point guard."

Irving probably wouldn't dispute it.

"I mean, if you're familiar with D-Live's game, you know in high school he was shooting those 3s," Irving said. "It's crazy. I was watching highlights not too long ago."

The first priority for Lively in the offseason might be free throws. Oklahoma City fouled him on purpose a few times

in the second-round series. He shot 50.6% from the line in the regular season but has improved to 59% (36 of 61) in the playoffs.

As for those 3s, Lively was seen shooting them during portions of practice open to reporters during the playoffs, and Kidd has called them the next step in his development.

Such talk bodes well for Lively's development in the areas where the Mavs will depend on him the most—around the basket.

"I wouldn't have expected myself to be in this spot whenever I looked at the draft a year ago," said Lively, who was taken 12th overall. "The draft is a week away. Last year, a week away from the draft, my heart was pumping because I didn't know what was going to happen. And now I'm playing in the NBA Finals."

And leaving an impression—again.

Team NMI settling in Marshalls

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER

MAJURO, Marshall Islands—

Chef de mission Valerie Hofschneider welcomed the athletics and basketball teams Sunday night as the rest of Team NMI settles in Majuro, Marshall Islands for the 2024 Micronesian Games.

They join the other NMI athletes already there as they settle in for the first few days of games. The wrestling team

will make their way to Majuro on the June 20.

The opening ceremony was held last Saturday and was led by NMI flag bearer Antonette Labausa and Hofschneider. Other Micronesian Islands joined in the festivities including host Marshall Islands, Guam, Kiribati, Palau, Nauru, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Kosrae, and Yap.

Hofschneider said that, so far, the team is settling in nicely. "The team is doing well. Everything is provided. There's some getting used to like the facilities. The showers and restrooms are

separate, but so far overall, there hasn't been any complaints. It's just taking some getting used to," she said. "It's a different country so it's a different life-style, which is fine."

She said the only thing they had trouble with so far is transportation.

As for the swim team that medaled, she said, "it's really fantastic. What a way to start the Games for us. Swimming has always been one of the strongest sports for us including beach volleyball."

She said of the women's



LEIGH GASES

Team NMI chef de mission Valerie Hofschneider, right, and deputy chef de mission James Lee pose for a photo at the arrival area of the Amata Kabua International Airport in Majuro, Marshall Islands last Sunday night.

volleyball team that competed the past couple of days, "this is the first time I've seen the team perform. Today, (Sunday) they performed pretty strong so hopefully tomorrow (yesterday) they show the same energy as they did."

As for her end as the chef de mission, she said, "the only stressful thing is transportation. I just need to be where all teams are playing to support everybody, but other than that, if I'm able to go where I need to go, then I'm happy and less stressed out. I'll be able to just show our athletes that there's somebody there for them and supporting them."

WINS

From page 16

said the game went really well. "We used our height advantage inside and stole a lot of balls. Though they were bigger than us, we used our speed and that's why the outcome was a win," she said.

As to how she felt after their win, she said, "I'm feeling really good. The girls are coming together. We're not perfect but we're getting there—our game is gelling."

Camacho said they need to beat Chuuk today to retain first place in their pool and get the bye.

On how this sets the tone for the rest of the tournament, she said, "This sets the tone. This was a must win and we got the win, so we're ahead now. We just need to win two more games in our pool, to advance and be in a good position to win a medal hopefully."

In beach volleyball on a

rainy morning, the men's duo of Dylan Mister and Jermaine Salas won their game against Kiribati, 21-13, 21-15.

Salas said of their match, "it was pretty good. We lost our match yesterday (Sunday), so we just kind of talked about it



LEIGH GASES

NMI's Kathy Winkfield goes for an overhead spike during their game against Palau in the 2024 Micronesian Games yesterday at the Majuro Track and Field Center in Majuro, Marshall Islands.

overnight, fixed a few things, and changed some things we messed up yesterday. We got a good warmup today so that's pretty much how we won our match."

For Mister, he said, "Communication is key. With the weather, we had to work with what we got. We're so thank-

ful for the tennis team coming out and cheering us on."

The bronze medal matchup is today.

As for the women's duo of Kathy Winkfield and Aurora Santos, they slipped to Palau in a crucial game to determine who advances to the gold medal round today.



LEIGH GASES

NMI's Dylan Mister goes for a kill at the net during their game against Kiribati yesterday in the 2024 Micronesian Games at the Majuro Track and Field Center in Majuro, Marshall Islands.

Palau's pair pummeled Team NMI in the first set, 21-13, as the rain continued its downpour. Then, the duo of Winkfield and Santos came back with a rally in the second set, 22-20, to force a decisive third set.

It was definitely a fight to the finish as both teams battled it out as strong as the rain battered the court and kept the tie

until 13 points. Palau's duo then sealed the deal with two straight points and pushed NMI to the bronze medal round today.

In other results, the NMI Women's National Fast Pitch Softball Team lost to the host team Marshall Islands, 1-5, after their game was delayed to last night due to strong rain in the morning.

KAYA

From page 16

Rasa owned her division as she took home gold in all portions—her best lift in the snatch of 58 kg, 75 kg in the clean & jerk, and 133 kg in the total weight.

As for Cristobal earlier in the day, he had a best clean & jerk lift of 143 kg which earned him silver, while he settled for bronze with a best snatch of 106 kg. His other silver was in the total weight lifted with 249kg.

Gold in the total weight lifted was Nauru's Ditto Ika with 261 kg. Bronze was Kiribati's Kaimauri Erati at 230 kg.

Gold for the clean & jerk also went to Ika at 150 kg, while bronze went to Erati at 120 kg.

For Rasa, who competed in the Micro Games for the first time, she said the competition was nerve-racking. She got the first-lift jitters out of the way after she failed her first attempt, then came back stronger in her next lifts which eventually handed her the gold.

The 18-year-old bested three other competitors and set her new competition record in the snatch. After her win, she said she felt emotional because she didn't think she would hit her numbers. As for the Micro Games experience, she said, "I'm loving it. I love being around a lot of people that are involved in sports—we all just share the same energy, the same goals, and the same purpose—which is to bring medals home, so it's a good time."

The 2023 Northern Marianas College graduate is on the way to the University of Hawai'i in Manoa to pursue a bachelor's degree in psychology and will continue weightlifting while there. She then thanked her coaches, teammates, family, and friends for their support.

U.S. Airman Cristobal, who flew from his base in Okinawa, said, "The competition was a good time. My expectations coming in was to do my best and have fun, which I did." He set new personal bests all around—he added six kilograms in his snatch, five kilograms in the clean & jerk, and 11 kilograms in the total.

He then said, "Also I want to wish a Happy Father's Day to my dad, Leonardo Cristobal Sr. and happy advance birthday to my brother, Leonardo Cristobal Jr."

Young up-and-coming lifter Jaden Andrew also stormed the platform for his first Micro Games experience. The 14-year-old incoming freshman set a new personal best in the total weight with his 190-kg overall lift.

He said of his first Micro Games experience, "It felt good. I wasn't nervous because it wasn't my first competition, but I was excited." As to being the youngest in the 67-kg weight class, he said, "I was just scared to miss a lift." With the competition out of the way, he said, "I can now eat again because I was trying to cut weight."

Today, the rest of the team will make their debuts—Antonette Labausa, Lucio Eugenio, Riella Ichio, and Joseph Pangelinan.

SWEEP

From page 16

16 leads the field.

Kean Pajarillaga, Kouki Watanabe, Isaiah Aleksenko, and Michael Miller struck first after dominating the men's 200-yard medley relay with a time of 1:37.09. Palau and Pohnpei settled for the bronze and silver, respectively.

The women's 200-yard medley relay team of Frances Raho, Maria Batallones, Sari Barman, and Shoko Litulumar quickly followed suit with a gold medal-winning swim of 1:53.99 to beat second place and host Marshall Islands and third place Pohnpei.

Aleksenko then flexed his considerable wingspan in topping the men's 50-yard butterfly with a time of 21:59.

After Batallones settled for silver in the women's 50-yard butterfly after losing to Marshall Islands' Ann-Marie Hepler, 27:30-27:59, Pajarillaga reasserted the CNMI's dominance in the men's 200-yard free-

style with a time of 1:45.28.

Batallones redeemed herself in the women's 200-yard freestyle with a first-place time of 2:04.37. Raho bagged the bronze in 2:07.30. Pajarillaga was it again in the men's 100-yard backstroke, churning out another golden performance after touching the tile in 53:61. Justin Ma got another bronze in his first off-island competition with a time of 1:00.77.

Litulumar and Raho then finished 1-2 in the women's 100-yard backstroke after clocking in at 1:03.86 and 1:04.21, respectively.

Aleksenko gave Team NMI its eighth gold medal by crushing the competition in the men's 200-yard butterfly with a time of 1:45:45. Watanabe gave the CNMI silver with a swim of 2:03.00.

Finally, Batallones, Pajarillaga, Raho, and Aleksenko concluded the CNMI's gold rush yesterday with a swim of 3:27.70 in the Mixed 400 Yard Freestyle Relay.

CNMI National Swimming Team coach Hiroyuki Kimura remained lowkey

despite the medal rush in the first two days of swimming competition.

"I'm so happy but I think this is an expected result. Because the amount of practice that swimmers have and the hardness of their practice is amazing—practice never betrays young athletes!" he said.

As for the best performance of Day 2 of the swimming competition, Kimura said he would have to go with Aleksenko's.

"Because his 200-yard butterfly was much, much faster than his university's team of 1:54.65," he said. The Marianas High School recent graduate has committed to Keiser University.

Kimura also gave kudos to Ma's, so far, surprising debut in the 2024 Micronesian Games.

"Because he won bronze in the 100-yard backstroke. Please let me say again and again, for Justin, this Micro Games is his first international meet and first time to represent the CNMI!"

Aleksenko, for his part, said he's happy with his gold med-

als and hopes he could win more. He went on to dedicate them, "to God, my mom, my family, my coach, Miss Yuko, and my friends and teammates."

Pajarillaga, meanwhile, said he's pretty satisfied with his 200-yard freestyle swim. "However, I wanted to get a faster time for my 100-yard backstroke because my time was pretty slow. For the relays I felt tired but I still did my best and we got gold for both of the relays."

Last but not the least, Batallones simply said Day 3 was a great day for her. "I swam with really fast times that I even surprised myself with. Winning both relays today felt amazing. I believed in myself and in my team and I'm glad we've been winning nothing but gold so far. As of my individual events, I feel like I should've done better for my 50-yard butterfly. I did avenge myself with another gold for my 200-yard freestyle so I'm really happy about that. It's tiring everyday, but I know Team NMI swimmers got this!"



**Orioles beat
Phillies,
6-2, behind
Santander's
four RBIs**
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**Team NMI
settling in
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI nearly sweep swimming events

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

» **Team
NMI bag
9 gold
medals**

The CNMI National Swimming Team topped nine out of the 11 events at stake for an amazing nine-gold medal haul in Day 3 of the 2024 Micronesian Games yesterday at the Kwajalein Pool in Kwajalein, Marshall Islands.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frances Raho, Maria Batallones, Sari Barman, and Shoko Litulumar topped the women's 200-yard medley relay yesterday in the 2024 Micronesian Games at the Kwajalein Pool in Kwajalein, Marshall Islands. They are seen with their gold medals on the podium along with silver and bronze medalist from host Marshall Islands and Pohnpei.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Isaiah Aleksenko and Kouki Watanabe are on the podium with their gold and silver medals after finishing first and second in the men's 200-yard butterfly yesterday in the 2024 Micronesian Games at the Kwajalein Pool in Kwajalein, Marshall Islands.

Team Marianas has already earned 16 gold medals just three days into the competition in the 2024 Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands, surpassing its record in the 2018 edition of the event held in Yap.

NMI swimmers and weightlifters contributed to Team Marianas' strong showing last Monday with the former adding nine gold medals, four silvers, and three bronzes and the latter gaining three gold med-

als, two silvers, and a bronze.

After Day 3, Team Marianas' medal tally is now at 16-7-5 for a total of 28. In the 2018 Micronesian Games, NMI athletes went home with nine golds, 18 silvers, and nine bronze for a total of

36 and a fifth-place finish in the medal standings. Pending the results of the other weight classes in the weightlifting competition yesterday, Team Marianas total gold medals of

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COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Northern Marianas	16	7	5	28
Guam	2	0	0	2
Palau	1	7	5	13
Marshall Islands	1	1	3	5
Pohnpei	0	3	2	5
Nauru	0	1	1	2
Yap	0	0	0	0
Kiribati	0	0	0	0
Kosrae	0	0	0	0
Chuuk	0	0	0	0

PROUD SPONSORS OF TEAM MARIANAS

PLATINUM: Saipan & Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, SKECHERS, JOFFEN DAIDA, MARIANA EXPRESS LINES, L.L.C.

GOLD: E-LAND, DQ, TakeCare

SILVER: RNVP, ITC, Green, Matson

BRONZE: P&A, Y.K. Corporation, AIA, Artisan Corporation, I SAIPAN

NOTE: Weightlifting medals won Monday by other countries besides NMI have yet to be included in the tally.

Wins for both women's hoops and beach v-ball



LEIGH GASES

NMI's Sylvina Simram fights for possession of a loose ball against a Nauru player during their first day of matches in the 2024 Micronesian Games yesterday at the Education & Cultural Center in Majuro, Marshall Islands.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

MAJURO, Marshall Islands—It was a great kick-off to the week as the NMI Women's National Basketball team scooped their first win on their first day of games yesterday versus Nauru, 55-37, at the Education & Cultural Center.

It was a physical game as NMI was fouled left and right after the game opened up with a 3-pointer by California fly-in, Alliyah Fernandez. Even with that, they kept the

pace and held Nauru at bay, 14-4, in the first quarter.

The team kept the punches rolling for a 25-8 second quarter. Nauru had some fight left in them as they scored 14 points in the third to come within half, 22-41. But, NMI's fast break plays and strong defense held up to win by a margin of 18 points.

Fernandez led the team with 12 points, while Cassie Camacho scored 7, and Lia Rangamar and Destiny Pangelinan had 6 points each.

Coach Connie Camacho

See **WINS** on Page 15

Kaya sweeps 59-kg class; Leowell bags 2 silver, 1 bronze

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

MAJURO, Marshall Islands—The NMI National Weightlifting Team started their run in the 2024 Micronesian Games with a bang as Kaya

Rasa swept her 59-kg division with three gold medals and Leowell Cristobal hauled in three medals in his 67-kg weight class in the 2024 Micronesian Games yesterday at the International Convention Center.

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LEIGH GASES

The NMI's Leowell Cristobal, left, poses with his two silver and one bronze medal on the podium of the 67-kg awarding ceremony on the first day of weightlifting competitions in the 2024 Micronesian Games yesterday at the International Convention Center.



LEIGH GASES

Kaya Rasa in motion during her snatch attempt in the 59-kg category on the first day of weightlifting competitions in the 2024 Micronesian Games yesterday at the International Convention Center in Majuro, Marshall Islands.